SUPERMAN · DC · NATIONAL COMICS

80 pg. GIANT G 37

25¢

AUG. NO. 193

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BAT MAN

ANOTHER STAR COLLECTION OF BATMAN AND ROBIN'S BIZARRE ACTION ROLES!

"THE ARMORED BATMAN!"

BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE WEARING STEEL ARMOR-- AND THEY HAVE TO USE CHAINS TO HOLD THEIR WEIGHT! BUT WHY?

POLICE

6 SUSPENSE FILLED THRILLERS!

A FAKE BATMAN! BUT I CAN'T EXPOSE HIM WITHOUT REVEALING MY OWN IDENTITY!

"MAYOR BRUCE WAYNE!"

AND

"THE FLYING BATMAN!"

ANOTHER COMPLETE NEWSPAPER SYNDICATED STORY NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED IN ANY MAGAZINE!

KILL HIM! KILL THE BAT-HOMBRE!

"RIDE, BAT-HOMBRE RIDE!"

GIANT BATMAN

Another star collection of BATMAN and ROBIN'S Most Bizarre Action Roles

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G-37

Printed in U.S.A.

BATMAN, No. 193, July-Aug. 1967: Published monthly, with the exception of Jan. and April; (semi-monthly, Dec.) by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd & Dickey Sts., SPARTA, ILL. 62286. Editorial, Executive offices and Subscriptions, 575 LEXINGTON AVE., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Jack Schiff, Editor. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SPARTA, ILL. under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription in the U.S. for twelve 32-page issues, $1.75 including postage. Foreign, $2.50 in American funds. Canada, $2.00 in American funds; check or money order only. No subscriptions accepted without Zip Code. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 41 E. 42 St., New York, N.Y. 10017.

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BATMAN WITH ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

KILL HIM! KILL THE BAT-HOMBRE!

SALUDOS, AMIGOS!

WHO IS THIS *BAT-HOMBRE*, WHO LASHES OUT WITH A COURAGE AND A DARING EQUALLED ONLY BY HIS NAMESAKE, *BATMAN*?

AND WHAT ARE *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* DOING IN THE LAND OF THE GAUCHO AND THE WILDEST BANDITS IN THE WORLD?

FOR HIGH ADVENTURE THEN, COME WITH US, AMIGOS, DOWN SOUTH AMERICAN WAY WHERE THE NATIVES CRY...

"RIDE, BAT-HOMBRE, RIDE!"

BOB KANE

HIGH FESTIVITY REIGNS, AS ALL GOTHAM CITY WELCOMES THE VISITING PRESIDENT OF MANTEGUA, TINY LATIN-AMERICAN REPUBLIC...

ALL EYES ON HIM, AGED, BELOVED PRESIDENT JOSÉ CAMARAN WARMLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE ROARS OF THE CROWD...

SUCH A WONDERFUL RECEPTION FROM THESE AMERICANS! I'M GLAD I DECIDED TO MAKE THE TRIP NOW— WHO KNOWS, IN MY ILL-HEALTH, NEXT YEAR MIGHT BE TOO LATE...

AND, AS THE PROCESSION CONTINUES, IT PASSES THE VANTAGE POINT OF GOTHAM CITY'S FAMOUS CRIME-BUSTERS, ***BATMAN*** AND ***ROBIN***, THE BOY WONDER.

GOSH! WHAT A WELCOME FOR PRESIDENT CAMARAN!

ROBIN! THAT MAN DOWN THERE! HE'S UP ***TO NO GOOD!***

AND, IN THE NEXT MOMENT, THE MAN ***BATMAN*** HAS BEEN WATCHING SUDDENLY WHIPS OUT A GUN, AS...

DIE LIKE A DOG, CAMARAN! I, FELIPE, ASSASSINATE YOU!

BUT, MOVING WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT, THE ***DYNAMIC DUO*** DIVES ON THE ATTACKER, AS...

GOOD! WE DEFLECTED THE BULLET! NOW TO GOAL THIS WOULD-BE ASSASSIN...

WHAT EES THEES!

AND LATER, IN PRESIDENT CAMARAN'S HOTEL SUITE...

I HAVE HEARD MUCH ABOUT YOU, ***BATMAN*** AND ***ROBIN***. AND NOW, WITH MY OWN EYES, I HAVE SEEN YOUR COURAGE, YOUR DARING, YOUR RESOURCEFULNESS. YOU HAVE MY UNDYING GRATITUDE...

IT WAS AN HONOR TO PROTECT YOU, MR. PRESIDENT!

I AM TEMPTED TO ASK OF YOU A GREAT FAVOR, BATMAN! BUT FIRST, I WOULD TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT THE COUNTRY I RULE...

"IT IS A TINY COUNTRY, BATMAN—BUT A BEAUTIFUL ONE--A LAND OF ROLLING PAMPAS AND WILD, MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS...

"WE LACK FOR NOTHING, BATMAN—EXCEPT LAW AND ORDER. FOR YEARS NOW, MY COUNTRY HAS BEEN TERRORIZED BY A CRIMINAL BAND, A MEMBER OF WHICH TRIED TO ASSASSINATE ME BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES..."

"THE LEADER OF THIS BAND IS A RUTHLESS OUTLAW WHO IS KNOWN AS EL PAPAGAYO OR, "THE PARROT", BECAUSE OF THE PARROT "TOTO" THAT IS HIS MASCOT..."

HO-HO! PANCHO-YOU HAVE THE LOOT! MAGNIFICO! YOU ARE A REAL AMIGO, PANCHO-REAL AMIGO! YOU ARE LIKE BROTHER TO ME!

GRACIAS, EL PAPAGAYO, GRACIAS!

"EL PAPAGAYO IS A DEADLY HOMBRE, BATMAN! ONE MOMENT HE CAN BE AS FRIENDLY AS A PUPPY, AND THE NEXT MOMENT HE CAN SHOOT YOU DOWN IN COLD BLOOD!"

"YOU CAN IMAGINE, BATMAN, HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR MY COUNTRY TO RID ITSELF OF SUCH A VILLAIN—A MAN WHO LETS THE WHIMS OF A BIRD DECIDE THE FATE OF HIS PRISONERS..."

SO, PANCHO—YOU WOULD HOLD BACK SOME OF THE LOOT! DIABLO! FOR THIS, TOTO HAS RULED THAT YOU DIE!

KILL HIM! KILL HIM!

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THIS ONE, TOTO? DO WE KILL HIM RIGHT NOW?

NO— NOT NOW! NO— NOT NOW!

YOU ARE LUCKY, BEGGAR! TOTO HAS SPARED YOUR LIFE—FOR THE TIME BEING!

"SEEING YOU, **BATMAN**, HAS REVIVED AN OLD DREAM OF MINE—A DREAM THAT YOU WOULD COME DOWN TO MY COUNTRY AND TRAIN SOMEONE TO IMITATE YOU—A **BAT-HOMBRE**, WHO WOULD RID US OF EL PAPAGAYO FOR ALLTIME..."

THAT IS THE FAVOR I WOULD ASK, SENOR **BATMAN**. THAT YOU TRAIN ANOTHER **BATMAN**, WHO WOULD COOPERATE WITH THE POLICE TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER...

I AM AN OLD MAN—I HAVE NOT MUCH LONGER TO LIVE. IN MY TIME I WOULD LIKE TO SEE EL PAPAGAYO BROUGHT TO JUSTICE AND MY COUNTRY DELIVERED FROM HIS BONDAGE...

TOUCHED BY THE OLD MAN'S PLEA, **BATMAN** CONFERS BRIEFLY WITH COMMISSIONER GORDON...

BY ALL MEANS, **BATMAN**, ACCEPT! IT'S PRETTY QUIET HERE RIGHT NOW—WE CAN SPARE YOU. AND YOUR VISIT WOULD BE A WONDERFUL AFFIRMATION OF OUR GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY!

AND THUS IT IS THAT, TWO DAYS LATER, THE BATPLANE IS WINGING OVER THE CARIBBEAN!

THE PRESIDENT DECIDED IT WOULD BE PRETTY HARD TO FIND ANOTHER BOY LIKE YOU, **ROBIN**—SO WE'LL JUST CONCENTRATE ON A **BATMAN**!

THAT'LL BE JOB ENOUGH! I UNDERSTAND HE'S GOING TO PARADE THE CREAM OF THE COUNTRY'S MANHOOD BEFORE US TO BE TESTED FOR THE JOB!

AND, AT THE AIRPORT IN CASANEGRO, CAPITAL CITY OF MANTEGUA...

GOSH—LOOK AT THAT CROWD, BATMAN!

VIVA EL BATMAN Y ROBIN!

IF YOU'LL STEP THIS WAY, SEÑORS— WE HAVE A CAR WAITING...

LATER, AT THE EXECUTIVE MANSION...

TAKE ALL THE TIME YOU WANT, GENTLEMEN. ALL MY FACILITIES ARE AT YOUR DISPOSAL. WHEN YOU ARE READY TO START SCREENING THE APPLICANTS, LET ME KNOW AND WE SHALL BEGIN...

FIRST THING TO DO IS TO FIND A PLACE OF OPERATIONS WHERE OUR FUTURE BAT-HOMBRE WILL LIVE...

THIS GROTTO IS PERFECT, ROBIN, FOR ANOTHER BATCAVE!

YES—IT'S DIRECTLY UNDER AN ABANDONED FARMHOUSE. OUR BAT-HOMBRE CAN LIVE THERE...

FOR DAYS, BATMAN AND ROBIN SET THE STAGE FOR THE NEW BAT-HOMBRE...

NO BATMOBILES IN THIS TERRAIN, ROBIN! BUT THIS THOROUGH-BRED RACER FROM THE ARGENTINE SHOULD BE FASTER THAN ANY OTHER HORSE AROUND...

GOSH—A BAT HORSE! ISN'T THAT SUPER?

THEN, THE FIRST COMPLICATION ARISES, WHEN PRESIDENT CAMARAN THROWS OPEN HIS COLLECTION OF WEAPONS FOR THE FUTURE BAT-HOMBRE'S USE...

NO, MR. PRESIDENT— WE CAN'T ACCEPT ANY OF THESE WEAPONS! BATMAN NEVER FIRES A GUN OR USES A KNIFE!

BUT—EL PAPAGAYO AND HIS MEN ARE RUTHLESS KILLERS! HOW COULD ONE FIGHT THEM WITHOUT WEAPONS LIKE THESE?

WE HAVE RUTHLESS KILLERS IN *OUR* COUNTRY, TOO, MR. PRESIDENT—AND WE'VE MANAGED WITH OUR OWN WEAPONS...

YES—AND INSTEAD OF OUR *SILKEN CORD*, THE *BAT-HOMBRE* WILL USE THIS *WHIP!* WATCH—I'LL DEMONSTRATE...

QUICKLY, THE VAUNTED *LAWMAN* LASHES THE WHIP OUT A WINDOW...

WITH THIS WHIP, THE *BAT-HOMBRE* WILL BE ABLE TO SPEED THROUGH THE ROUGHEST TERRAIN...

AND, AS THE WHIP'S END SNAKES AROUND THE BRANCH OF A TREE...

AMAZING ...AMAZING!

LATER, HAVING SECURED ALL THE *BAT-HOMBRE'S* EQUIPMENT, *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* ARE READY TO INTERVIEW APPLICANTS...

WE'LL TAKE THEM ONE AT A TIME, AND WEED OUT THE ATHLETICALLY UNFIT FIRST IN A SERIES OF ACROBATIC EXERCISES...

FOR DAYS, THE CREAM OF MANTEGUA'S MANHOOD GOES THROUGH A GRUELING EXAMINATION...

GOOD! HE KNOCKED THE GUN RIGHT OUT OF THE DUMMY'S HAND! HE'S GOT EXCELLENT CONTROL OF THAT WHIP!

AND AS APPLICANT AFTER APPLICANT DISPLAYS HIS ATHLETIC PROWESS BEFORE THE CRITICAL EYES OF *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN*...

REMOVE HIS NAME, TOO, *ROBIN!* HE'S FAILED TO CHIN THE NECESSARY 50 TIMES...

BUT, AS TIME PASSES, ***BATMAN*** AND ***ROBIN*** ARE FACED WITH WHAT SEEMS A HOPELESS TASK...

SCORES OF APPLICANTS— AND NOT ONE GOOD ENOUGH TO BE ***BAT-HOMBRE!*** IF ONE IS AN ATHLETE, IT TURNS OUT HE'S NO DETECTIVE! AND IF ONE IS A DETECTIVE, IT TURNS OUT HE'S NO ATHLETE!

THIS WILL BREAK PRESIDENT CAMARAN'S HEART! THERE MUST BE ***SOMEONE*** WHO CAN QUALIFY— COME ON, ***ROBIN,*** WE'VE A FEW NAMES LEFT...

THEN, DESPAIR TURNS TO ELATION, AS ONE OF THE LAST APPLICANTS PASSES ALL TESTS WITH FLYING COLORS!

HE PASSED EVERY OTHER TEST WITH EXCELLENT RATINGS— AND NOW HE'S PROVING HIS ABILITY AS AN ATHLETE!

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE FOUND OUR MAN, ***ROBIN!***

LATER, ***BATMAN*** CONGRATULATES THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE, A PLEASANT YOUNG MAN NAMED LUIS PERALDA; IN THE GROTTO THAT IS TO BE HIS FUTURE ***BATCAVE!***

NICE GOING, LUIS! NOW YOU'RE READY FOR SPECIAL TRAINING— AND TO LEARN THE SECRETS OF ***BATMAN*** AND ***ROBIN!*** BE HERE EARLY TOMORROW, WHEN WE'LL BEGIN... AND, OF COURSE, YOU MUST PLEDGE YOURSELF TO SECRECY!

NO WORRY, SEÑORS! I AM AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MY JOB! LUIS' LIPS ARE SEALED!

AND, THE NEXT MORNING, THE TRAITOROUS LUIS BEGINS HIS SECRET TRAINING AS ***BAT-HOMBRE*** UNDER THE UNSUSPECTING EYES OF ***BATMAN*** AND ***ROBIN!***

BUT, THAT EVENING...

HELLO, PEDRO! THIS IS LUIS! I FOOLED THE ***BATMAN!*** I ***GOT THE JOB!***

BUENO! EL PAPAGAYO WILL BE IMMEDIATELY INFORMED! HE WILL REWARD YOU HANDSOMELY, LUIS!

THIS IS THE UTILITY BELT. YOU WILL FIND IT EXCEEDINGLY HANDY TO PULL YOU OUT OF SCRAPES...

HA-HA! AFTER YOU'VE EXPLAINED IT TO ME, ***BATMAN,*** I'LL USE IT AGAINST ***YOU,*** FOR ***CRIME!***

THIS IS YOUR **BELT-RADIO**. I USE IT TO COMMUNICATE WITH **ROBIN**- YOU WILL USE IT TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE POLICE...

YOU MEAN EL PAPAGAYO, YOU FOOL! HA-HA!

THEN, THAT NIGHT, **BATMAN** HASTENS TO PRESIDENT CAMARAN, TO BRING HIM THE ENCOURAGING NEWS ABOUT **BAT-HOMBRE**...

AHHH, SEÑOR **BATMAN**- THAT IS GOOD! YOU KNOW, I WAS BEGINNING TO LOSE FAITH- I WAS BECOMING ASHAMED OF MY PEOPLE BECAUSE NO MAN COULD MEET YOUR QUALIFICATIONS...

BUT NOW IT IS DIFFERENT- NOW AN OLD MAN CAN DIE IN PEACE, KNOWING HE HAS PUT HIS COUNTRY ON THE RIGHT ROAD...

YES, MR. PRESIDENT- IN A FEW DAYS YOUR OWN **BAT-HOMBRE** WILL BE HOT ON THE TRAIL OF EL PAPAGAYO!

BUT AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN THE HIDDEN OUTLAW CAMP, **BAT-HOMBRE** HAS FOUND EL PAPAGAYO, UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES OF WHICH **BATMAN** IS COMPLETELY UNAWARE!

HO-HO! YOU HAVE DONE WELL, AMIGO! BY TOMORROW, YOU WILL HAVE LEARNED ALL OF **BATMAN'S** SECRETS- AND THEN WE WILL HAVE SOME FUN, EH, TOTO? **HO-HO!**

SI-SI! MUCHO FUN! SI-SI! MUCHO FUN!

AND, AS THE CELEBRATION GROWS WILDER..

HO-HO! LOOK- EVEN TOTO IS HAVING A GOOD TIME!

GOOD WORK, **BAT-HOMBRE!** GOOD WORK, **BAT-HOMBRE!**

CARAMBA! THE BIRD'S CLAWS HAVE TORN MY UNIFORM!

BUT WHAT WILL I TELL *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN*? THEY WILL SURELY NOTICE...

BAH—IT IS NOTHING! A BIRD'S CLAWS—THAT IS ALL! TELL THEM YOU WERE ATTACKED BY A NIGHT HAWK...

AND, THE NEXT DAY...

...IT WAS SOMETHING, I TELL YOU! THIS UGLY HAWK SWOOPED OUT OF THE NIGHT AND TRIED TO MAKE OFF WITH ME! BUT I KILLED IT QUICKLY...

HMMMM—HE'S DELIBERATELY LYING! THIS IS SERIOUS!

AND SOON AFTER, WHEN *BATMAN* IS ABLE TO PULL *ROBIN* ASIDE...

{WHISPER} HE'S LYING, *ROBIN!* THOSE MARKS WERE NOT MADE BY A HAWK—BUT BY A *PARROT!* AND THAT COULD VERY WELL MEAN...

...*EL PAPAGAYO!* HE COULD BE PART OF HIS GANG! BUT HOW CAN YOU BE SURE IT WAS A PARROT?

{WHISPER} ONE OF THE DEFINITE CHARACTERISTICS OF A PARROT IS THE *REVERSED FOURTH DIGIT* OF THE FOOT! LOOK AT THOSE CLAW MARKS!

CONVINCED THAT SOME SORT OF TREACHERY IS AFOOT, *BATMAN* TRIES A SURPRISE ATTACK, AND...

THOSE CLAW MARKS ON YOUR SHOULDER WERE MADE BY A *PARROT*, LUIS! WE KNOW WHERE YOU'VE BEEN!

YOUR BLUFF WORKED, *BATMAN!* HIS GUILT IS NOW EVIDENT!

BUT YOU COULDN'T! I COVERED MY TRAIL— I {GASP}

TRAPPED, THE FALSE *BAT-HOMBRE* QUICKLY REGAINS HIS WITS, AS...

ALL RIGHT—YOU'RE ON TO ME! BUT YOU DARE NOT EXPOSE ME! IF CAMARAN WERE TO LEARN OF THIS, IT WOULD BREAK HIS HEART!

HE'S RIGHT, *ROBIN!* I'VE TOLD CAMARAN THAT A *BAT-HOMBRE* WOULD RIDE AGAINST CRIME TOMORROW—THIS NEWS WOULD STAGGER THE OLD MAN!

LET'S FACE IT, BATMAN! LUIS WAS THE CLOSEST REPLACEMENT TO A BATMAN WE COULD FIND - AND NOW HE'S OUT! THERE JUST ISN'T ANOTHER BATMAN ANYWHERE!

BUT WE CAN'T LET CAMARAN DISCOVER THAT! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

HIS BRILLIANT MIND RACING, BATMAN SUDDENLY MAKES HIS DECISION!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY, ROBIN! WE'LL KEEP LUIS ON ICE, WHERE HE CAN'T REACH CAMARAN — AND I'LL TAKE OVER AS BAT-HOMBRE!

LOOK WHAT I FOUND IN HIS POCKET! A MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF EL PAPAGAYO'S CAMP!

EXCELLENT! NOW TO TAKE THIS IMPOSTOR TO COLONEL MORENOS, A POLICE OFFICIAL CAMARAN TOLD US WE CAN TRUST!

AND LATER, IN COLONEL MORENOS' OFFICE...

NO NEED TO WORRY, BATMAN! I WILL PUT HIM IN SOLITARY - HE WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO NO ONE!

GOOD! NOW - ROBIN WILL LEAVE YOU A COPY OF THE MAP! AS SOON AS YOU CAN, ROUND UP A FORCE TO MEET US AT EL PAPAGAYO'S HIDEOUT!

AND, STILL LATER, BATMAN PAYS THE PRESIDENT A SURPRISE VISIT...

BEFORE I LEAVE TO CAPTURE EL PAPAGAYO, I THOUGHT I'D PAY MY RESPECTS, MR. PRESIDENT!

AT LAST — OUR COUNTRY HAS ITS OWN BAT-HOMBRE! GODSPEED! GODSPEED!

MEANWHILE, AT THE PRISON...

EVEN THE GREAT BATMAN CAN SLIP UP! IN THE EXCITEMENT, HE FORGOT THAT I STILL HAVE THE UTILITY BELT — MY PASSPORT TO FREEDOM FROM THIS FOUL JAIL!

NICE OF BATMAN TO HAVE SHOWN ME HOW TO CREATE AN EXPLOSION! NOW TO HALT HIM BEFORE HE REACHES EL PAPAGAYO!

MEANWHILE, AN AWESOME SPECTACLE LOOMS UP ON THE ROLLING PAMPAS – THE BAT-HORSE, THUNDERING INTO ACTION!

HOLD ON, ROBIN! THIS BAT-HORSE IS A FOUR-FOOTED TORNADO!

AND, IN THE JAGGED MOUNTAINS NEAR EL PAPAGAYO'S CAMP...

THE CAMP'S DEAD AHEAD! GO DOWN THIS SIDE, ROBIN – AND LOOK FOR A TRAIL. I'LL TRY THIS OTHER SIDE AND MEET YOU HERE IN FIVE MINUTES...

FRANTICALLY, ROBIN CLINGS TO HIS LEDGE AS THE BATTLE REACHES ITS VIOLENT CONCLUSION...

AAAHHHEEEEEEEE...

BATMAN! BATMAN! IS THAT YOU?

REACHING THE FOOT OF THE CLIFF, ROBIN'S FOOT TANGLES IN A VINE. AND, AS HE STRUGGLES TO FREE HIMSELF SUDDENLY...

HA-HA BATMAN! THE TABLES ARE TURNED! NOW I WILL KILL YOU!

IT'S LUIS! HE'S ESCAPED!

A WILD, SWAYING BATTLE SKIRTS THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF! THEN, AS ROBIN BREAKS FREE, AND RUSHES TO HELP BATMAN...

SOMEONE'S FALLING! IS IT BATMAN!

ONCE AGAIN, DEATHLY SILENCE GRIPS THE AIR. THEN, AS *ROBIN* BRACES...

HE'S COMING! WHOEVER IT IS— HE'S COMING!

THEN SUDDENLY, THE FREEZING SUSPENSE IS SHATTERED AS..

WELL, *ROBIN*— WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING? WAITING FOR A STREET-CAR?

OH, *BATMAN*—*IT'S YOU!* PHEW— WAS I WORRIED!

THEN, WITHOUT WARNING, A SWARM OF BANDITS LEAPS OUT TO SURPRISE AND CAPTURE *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN!*

THROW THEM UNDER GUARD UNTIL EL PAPAGAYO RETURNS!

EL PAPAGAYO'S MEN! THE NOISE OF THE FIGHT MUST HAVE BROUGHT THEM!

LATER, IN THE TENT WHERE THEY ARE HELD PRISONER...

A FINE MESS WE'VE MADE OF THINGS!

WAIT! THESE BERRIES— AND THIS CURARE BARK GIVE ME AN IDEA!

AND, PRESENTLY, WHEN THE **DYNAMIC DUO** IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE BANDIT CHIEFTAIN...

HAH! THIS FOREIGNER, *BATMAN*, WOULD MEDDLE IN MY AFFAIRS! *HERE!* WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

JUST FEEDING YOUR PARROT SOME BERRIES, EL PAPAGAYO I'M VERY FOND OF PARROTS!

THE NERVE OF HIM! TRYING TO BRIBE THE PARROT!

THEN, EL PAPAGAYO ASKS TOTO TO PASS SENTENCE UPON *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN!*

KILL THEM! GIVE THEM WHIPS— MAKE THEM BEAT THEMSELVES TO DEATH WITH THE WHIPS!

TERRIFICO, TOTO, *TERRIFICO!* YOU HAVE GREAT IMAGINATION! *QUICKLY, CARLOS— BRING WHIPS!*

MOMENTS LATER...

GO ON! START WHIPPING EACH OTHER!

(WHISPER) READY, ROBIN! FOLLOW MY LEAD!

SUDDENLY, BATMAN AND ROBIN LASH OUT WITH THEIR WHIPS - BUT IN A MANNER TO SURPRISE COMPLETELY EL PAPAGAYO AND HIS MEN!

QUICKLY, ROBIN - UP INTO THE TREE!

CARAMBA! SEIZE THEM!

OKAY, LOUIE - DROP THE GUN!

THEN, COILING THEIR WHIPS AROUND THE BRANCHES OF ANOTHER TREE, THE AMAZING LAWMEN LITERALLY BOWL THEIR OPPONENTS OVER, AS...

NICE TO HAVE BUMPED INTO YOU AGAIN, EL PAPAGAYO!

LOOK! COLONEL MORENOS AND A POSSE!

THE COMPLETELY-DISORGANIZED BANDITS ARE NO MATCH FOR MORENOS AND HIS MEN, AND IN A FEW MOMENTS ALL ARE CAPTURED!

JUST BEFORE WE LEFT CASANEGRO, WE HEARD THAT PRESIDENT CAMARAN HAD DIED - BUT WITH A SMILE ON HIS LIPS... THANKS TO YOU, BATMAN AND ROBIN...

HIS DEATH WAS INEVITABLE, I SUPPOSE. ROBIN AND I CAN TAKE SOLACE IN THE FACT THAT HE DIED A HAPPY MAN...

AND NEXT DAY, WINGING HOMEWARD IN THE BATPLANE...

THAT WAS A NEAT TRICK, BATMAN - FEEDING THE PARROT THOSE CURARE-DOSED BERRIES AND THEN IMITATING ITS VOICE TO GET US THOSE WHIPS! BUT WHAT ABOUT CURARE - ISN'T IT A DEADLY POISON?

IT IS - EXCEPT WHEN USED IN CAREFUL, MINUTE DOSES. THEN IT HAS A PARALYTIC EFFECT, AND IN THIS CASE PARALYZED THE BIRD'S VOCAL CHORDS!

DANGER IS NOTHING NEW TO **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**, WHO'VE WARDED OFF ALL THREATS WITH THEIR QUICK THINKING, THEIR RESOURCEFULNESS AND THEIR SUPERB ACROBATIC SKILLS! BUT NOW, THEY FACE A MYSTERIOUS MENACE SO FORMIDABLE THAT ORDINARY PROTECTION IS NOT ENOUGH, AND THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTER MUST BECOME...

BATMAN THE BOY WONDER

THE ARMORED BATMAN

IN THE **GOTHAM CITY HALL OF FAME**, NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER VICKI VALE IMPATIENTLY AWAITS THE ARRIVAL OF THE GUEST OF HONOR...

BATMAN SHOULD BE HERE SOON FOR THE DEDICATION OF HIS BUST! HE SURELY DESERVES IT, FOR ALL HE'S DONE!

WHEN **BATMAN** COMES, MISS VALE, GIVE HIM A MESSAGE FROM ME!

TELL HIM **BLAIR GRAEME** IS AFTER HIM NOW! HE KNOWS HE CAN'T ESCAPE **ME!**

WHY-- WHO IS THAT MAN? STOP HIM!

BUT BEFORE THEY CAN REACH THE THREATENING VISITOR...

HE GOT AWAY! BUT WHO WAS HE? WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THAT THREAT?

AW, HE'S PROBABLY JUST A CRANK! **BATMAN'S** BEEN THREATENED SO MANY TIMES BY CROOKS THAT HE'LL JUST LAUGH AT THIS!

BUT, WHEN **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** ARRIVE, MINUTES LATER...

...AND THIS CHARACTER SAID, "TELL HIM BLAIR GRAEME IS AFTER HIM NOW," AND--

BLAIR GRAEME! **ROBIN,** DO YOU HEAR THAT? WE MUST GET OUT OF HERE!

BUT, **BATMAN**-- THE DEDICATION OF YOUR STATUS--

IT'LL HAVE TO WAIT! **ROBIN** AND I FACE A TERRIBLE DANGER... WE MUST MAKE PREPARATIONS!

WHEW! THAT BLAIR GRAEME MUST BE QUITE A MENACE, TO GIVE **BATMAN** SUCH A SCARE!

BATMAN SCARED? THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

YET, WHY DID THE THREAT AFFECT HIM SO?

WHY INDEED? AND WHAT STRANGE PREPARATIONS DO **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** MAKE, SOME TIME LATER, IN THEIR SECRET **BAT-CAVE?...**

THEY'RE READY, **ROBIN**-- AND THAT MEANS **WE'RE** READY, TO START OUR SEARCH!

I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D USE THINGS LIKE THIS-- BUT, WITH THE DANGER FACING US, WE HAVE TO!

SOON, GOTHAM CITY WITNESSES A STARTLING NEW SIGHT...

LOOK! **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**, WEARING **STEEL ARMOR!** BUT WHY?... THEY'VE NEVER WORN SPECIAL PROTECTION BEFORE!

COME ON, **ROBIN**-- WE'VE GOT TO KEEP SEARCHING!

NOT THE LEAST PUZZLED BY THIS SENSATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS VICKI VALE...

BATMAN, WHO IS BLAIR GRAEME? IT'S ↑ S THREAT THAT MADE YOU WEAR ARMOR, SN'T IT?

ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT WE NEED THIS ARMOR TO PROTECT OUR LIVES, VICKI! WE HAVE A DANGEROUS STRUGGLE AHEAD OF US!

WHOEVER THIS GRAEME IS, HE MUST BE CONNECTED WITH ONE OF **BATMAN'S** PAST CASES! I'M GOING TO CHECK BACK ON **BATMAN'S** RECENT ACTIVITIES... MAYBE I CAN SOLVE THE MYSTERY THAT WAY!

BUT AFTER AN INVESTIGATION THAT ENDS AT THE **GOTHAM SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATION**...

YES, WE CALLED **BATMAN** RECENTLY, BECAUSE OF AN ATTEMPT TO ROB THE FOUNDATION! BUT I NEVER HEARD OF ANYONE NAMED BLAIR GRAEME!

NOBODY HAS... YET, THE MAN MUST BE TERRIBLY DANGEROUS TO MAKE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** TAKE SUCH PRECAUTIONS!

HIGHLY RADIOACTIVE ELEMENTS--DANGER KEEP OUT

MEANWHILE, AS THE DUO CONTINUES A GRIM HUNT...

SO FAR, WE HAVEN'T FOUND A SINGLE CLUE TO--WAIT! THAT RADIO FLASH...

...AND THE STUNNED WORKMAN ON THE NEW **BARTON BUILDING** IS IN DANGER OF FALLING TO HIS DEATH!

OH, OH... WE'D BETTER GET RIGHT OVER THERE, **BATMAN!**

HIGH ON A HALF-FINISHED NEW SKYSCRAPER, MINUTES LATER...

SMITH WAS ON THAT GIRDER WHEN THE CRANE ACCIDENTALLY SWUNG IT AGAINST THE WALL! NOW, WE'RE AFRAID TO MOVE THE CRANE, BECAUSE WE MIGHT THROW HIM OFF!

WE'LL TRY TO TAKE HIM OFF! I'LL SWING OUT TO HIM, **ROBIN**.. YOU BE READY TO CATCH US...

TENSE THRONGS BELOW GASP FEARFULLY...

BATMAN'S SWINGING TO GRAB THE WORKMAN OUT OF DANGER!

BUT NO ROPE CAN HOLD THE WEIGHT OF HIS ARMOR!

GOTHAM CONSTRUCTION

HE'S USING A CHAIN--NOT A ROPE!

BUT IT'S STILL DANGEROUS FOR HIM TO TRY A STUNT LIKE THAT IN HEAVY ARMOR...

NICE WORK, BATMAN!

WHAT A FEAT! BUT WHY DIDN'T HE TAKE HIS ARMOR OFF BEFORE HE TRIED IT? HE MUST REALLY BE AFRAID OF THIS GUY GRAEME!

IN THE MEANTIME, VICKI VALE HAS MADE A DISCOVERY...

LOOK... WHILE PHOTOGRAPHING THE BATMAN BUST, I ALSO GOT A PICTURE OF THAT MAN GRAEME! I'M GOING TO SHOW THIS TO BATMAN...

YOU'LL FIND HIM OVER AT THE BARTON BUILDING... THE RADIO JUST TOLD OF A SENSATIONAL RESCUE HE MADE THERE!

SHORTLY AFTERWARD...

GOOD NEWS, BATMAN... WITH THIS PHOTO, THE POLICE CAN HELP YOU CAPTURE GRAEME!

NO, VICKI--BELIEVE ME... NOBODY CAN FIND GRAEME! I DON'T WANT YOU OR ANYBODY ELSE TRYING IT!

HMM... I DON'T KNOW WHAT BATMAN IS AFRAID OF--BUT I THINK I'VE GOT A REAL LEAD TO GRAEME, AND I'M GOING TO TEST IT OUT!

IN THE MEANTIME, AN ENTIRE CITY CONTINUES TO WATCH AND WONDER...

THEY KEEP DRIVING, UP AND DOWN EVERY STREET!

BATMAN NEVER TOOK A THREAT SO SERIOUSLY BEFORE! I WONDER--IS HE LOSING HIS NERVE?

ANY LUCK YET, ROBIN?

NOT A THING... I'M BEGINNING TO FEAR OUR PLAN IS A FAILURE!

JUST THEN...

CALLING ALL CARS! JOHN MARROW, WANTED FUGITIVE, SPOTTED IN GOTHAM ZOO!

OH, OH... WE'D BETTER GET OVER THERE! MARROW'S A DANGEROUS MAN, AND THE ZOO WILL BE FULL OF YOUNGSTERS TODAY!

ABANDONING THEIR OWN TENSE SEARCH, THE ARMORED LAWMEN RACE TO THE BIG ZOO...

MARROW'S IN HERE SOMEWHERE, BUT YOU'D BETTER STAY BACK, BATMAN... YOUR ARMOR MAY HAMPER YOU!

WE'LL TRY, ANY-HOW...

SOON...

THERE HE IS, ROBIN!

I'M IN A TIGHT SPOT--BUT MAYBE THESE LIONS CAN CLEAR A WAY FOR ME!

AS THE DESPERATE THUG RELEASES FANGED FURY...

THAT DOES IT... I'LL GET DOWN BEHIND THE CAGE, AND ESCAPE!

YOU GO AFTER MARROW, ROBIN-- I'LL TAKE CARE OF THESE BEASTS!

AND THIS TIME, THE CUMBERSOME ARMOR PROVES AN ADVANTAGE...

THEIR CLAWS CAN'T HURT ME-- BUT I MUST GET THEM BACK IN THE CAGE FAST!

THIS SHOULD DO IT! NOW TO DRIVE THE OTHER ONE IN, TOO!

BUT **ROBIN**, MEANWHILE, HAS FOUND HIS STEEL COSTUME A DISTINCT HANDICAP...

I CAN'T = PUFF= CATCH HIM = PUFF-PUFF WITH ALL THIS METALWARE ON ME! ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO...

FROM HIS UTILITY BELT, THE BOY WONDER EXTRACTS A **BAT-BOLO**, AND...

EE-YOW

GOT HIM!

AS POLICE TAKE THE FUGITIVE AWAY, VICKI VALE ARRIVES WITH UPSETTING NEWS...

BATMAN, I'VE JUST GOTTEN ANOTHER CLUE TO BLAIR GRAEME, AND--

VICKI, I DON'T WANT YOU MEDDLING IN THIS! YOU HAVEN'T A CHANCE OF FINDING GRAEME... YOU'RE ONLY ASKING FOR TROUBLE!

HMPH! YOU'VE NEVER BELIEVED I COULD DO ANY SLEUTHING! WELL, THIS TIME I'LL SHOW 'YOU YOU'RE WRONG!

SHE WON'T LISTEN TO ME, **ROBIN**... WE'D BETTER GET BACK TO OUR OWN SEARCH!

AND AS THE STRANGE SEARCH BY INSTRUMENT CONTINUES...

WE'VE QUARTERED THE WHOLE CITY, AND THE GEIGER COUNTER SHOWS NOTHING! THEY MUST BE USING ***LEAD SHIELDING*** TO HIDE THE LOOT!

THEN OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO FIND OUT WHO RECENTLY BOUGHT A LARGE QUANTITY OF SHEET LEAD!

UPON CHECKING WITH A METAL-SUPPLY FIRM...

THAT'S A LIST OF PLACES WHERE WE DELIVERED SHEET LEAD! IT'S SO HEAVY, WE HAD TO USE SPECIAL TRUCKS!

HMM... THEY'RE ALL WELL-KNOWN FIRMS, EXCEPT THIS DELIVERY TO A WATERFRONT WAREHOUSE! I THINK WE'LL CHECK IT-- FROM THE RIVER SIDE, TO AVOID BEING SEEN!

BUT, AWHILE LATER, AS THE PAIR APPROACHES THE WAREHOUSE...

HERE COME **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**-- THEY'VE TRACED US! HOW CAN WE STOP THEM IN THAT ARMOR?

BY SINKING THEIR BOAT! THEY'LL GO DOWN LIKE STONES!

AS A BURST OF FIRE RIPS INTO THE SPEEDBOAT'S HULL...

HA, HA... THAT HEAVY STEEL CARRIES THEM RIGHT TO THE BOTTOM!

RATA-TAT-TAT

BUT, UNSEEN BY CROOKS, UNDER WATER...

AND FROM THE RIVER RISES RETRIBUTION IN STEEL!

THEY MUST HAVE HAD SOME WAY OF MAKING THEIR ARMOR WATER-TIGHT AND GETTING AIR TO BREATHE! THEY JUST WALKED ASHORE!

WELL, THERE'S **ONE** THING THAT ARMOR WON'T PROTECT THEM FROM! GET INTO YOUR PROTECTIVE SUITS, QUICK...

AS THE THIEVES DON STRANGE GARB...

GOOD THING WE KEPT THESE RADIATION-PROOF SUITS THAT WE GRABBED, WHEN WE STOLE THE RADIOACTIVE ATOMIC FUEL FROM THE FOUNDATION!

YEAH-- METAL ARMOR CAN'T STOP THE RADIATION FROM THIS STUFF! THEY WON'T DARE COME CLOSE TO US!

MOMENTS LATER...

SO THAT'S THE ATOMIC FUEL YOU STOLE FROM THE FOUNDATION!

YEAH... BUT YOU CAN'T COME NEAR IT, **BATMAN**, WITHOUT A RADIATION-PROOF SUIT! WE'RE HOLDING THIS STUFF TILL THE FOUNDATION PAYS OUR PRICE TO GET IT BACK!

BUT WE **ARE** WEARING RADIATION-PROOF SUITS, UNDER OUR ARMOR--WHICH ALSO DOUBLED AS DIVING-SUITS, UNDER WATER!

HUH? THAT STEEL ARMOR WAS A TRICK! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

WITH THAT STEEL ARMOR OFF, I FEEL LIGHT AS A FEATHER!

IT **IS** A PLEASURE TO BE ABLE TO MOVE FAST AGAIN--LIKE THIS!

DON'T LEAVE WHEN THE PARTY'S JUST WARMING UP!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM... YOU CLOSE UP THAT LEAD SAFE, **ROBIN**, SO THE POLICE CAN COME IN HERE WITHOUT RISK!

AND WITH THE POLICE COME COMMISSIONER GORDON AND-- VICKI VALE...

WE KEPT THEIR CRIME FROM THE PUBLIC, FOR FEAR THERE'D BE PANIC OVER THE DANGEROUS RADIOACTIVE FUEL BEING LOOSE IN THE CITY!

AND **WE** WORE RADIATION-PROOF SUITS UNDER OUR STEEL ARMOR, TO PROTECT US WHEN WE FOUND IT!

BY THE WAY, YOU SAID YOU HAD A LEAD TO BLAIR GRAEME, VICKI! DID YOU FIND HIM?

YES, I HAVE, **BATMAN!** BLAIR GRAEME WAS **YOU**, IN DISGUISE--WASN'T HE?

YES...WE HAD TO HIDE THE RADIATION-SUITS WE WORE! SO WE DONNED STEEL ARMOR... AND, TO **EXPLAIN** THE ARMOR, I DISGUISED MYSELF AND MADE THOSE THREATS!

BUT HOW DID YOU GUESS "BLAIR GRAEME" WAS A HOAX, VICKI?

I KNOW YOU TOO WELL, **BATMAN!** IF YOU WERE REALLY MENACED BY A DANGER, YOU'D KEEP AWAY FROM OTHER PEOPLE SO THEY WOULDN'T GET HURT, TOO! WHEN I SAW CROWDS AROUND YOU, I KNEW THERE WAS NO REAL DANGER!

VICKI, I'LL NEVER LAUGH AT YOUR DETECTIVE ABILITY AGAIN!

THE END

MAKE YOUR SUMMER COUNT!

I HAVEN'T HAD ANY LUCK LINING UP A SUMMER JOB-- THEY WANT OLDER KIDS...

SAME HERE... AND I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING WORTHWHILE WITH MY TIME.

CAN'T EVEN PLAY BALL HERE -- THAT LOT IS SUCH A MESS WITH ALL THAT BROKEN GLASS AND STUFF!

SAY! I GOT AN IDEA! C'MON...

SO YOU WANT TO CLEAN UP THAT LOT FOR A BALL FIELD? THAT'S A VERY COMMENDABLE PROJECT, BOYS. I'LL SEE THAT YOU GET THE PROPER SUPERVISION.

RECREATION SUPERVISOR

SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

SAY, MR. GRAY, LOOK AT ALL THOSE PIECES OF NICE, COLORED GLASS! CAN'T WE DO SOMETHING WITH THEM?

HMM... YOU SURE CAN, IF YOU'RE READY FOR ANOTHER PROJECT!

AND SO...

THIS IS FUN -- WE'RE ACTUALLY MAKING A DESIGN FOR A MOSAIC MURAL!

FINALLY... THE DAY OF TRIUMPH!

HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT? THEY ACTUALLY THOUGHT OUR MOSAIC WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO BE INSTALLED ON THE COMMUNITY HOUSE WALL!

WE SURE ARE GOING TO MAKE THE SUMMER COUNT!

PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U. S.

BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

WHO HASN'T DAY-DREAMED, AT SOME TIME OR ANOTHER, OF BEING A **KING?** TO MOST OF US IT'S JUST A WISH, BUT TO ONE MAN IT ACTUALLY HAPPENED, AND THAT MAN WAS **BATMAN!** YES, THE KING OF LAWMEN IS SUDDENLY TRANSFORMED INTO REAL ROYALTY, WHEN A DEVIOUS AND DANGEROUS CONSPIRACY HURTLES HIM INTO THE RISKY ROLE OF --

HIS MAJESTY, KING BATMAN

BOB KANE

WHEN GOTHAM CITY PREPARES A BIG WELCOME FOR A FAMOUS VISITOR, ITS TWO TOP LAWMEN ARE ALWAYS ON THE JOB...

THERE'S THE LINER WITH THE KING ON IT, **ROBIN!** THE COMMISSIONER WANTS US TO COVER THE RECEPTION-PARADE, TOO, FOR SAFETY!

THE **BATMOBILE'S** PARKED ON THE PIER -- WE CAN SWITCH TO IT FOR THE PARADE, **BATMAN!**

JUST THEN...

LOOK... SOME ENTERPRISING NEWSREEL CAMERAMEN ARE GOING TO BOARD THE LINER BEFORE IT EVEN DOCKS, AND GET FIRST PICTURES OF THE KING!

I WONDER...? THEY'RE TAKING PICTURES INTO THE SUN, WHICH NO EXPERIENCED CAMERAMAN WOULD DO! WE'D BETTER GO DOWN THERE AND CHECK!

AND AS THE **BAT-PLANE** LANDS ON ITS ALXILIARY HELICOPTERS...

COME ON--KING ERIC'S CABIN IS THIS WAY!

NO, WAIT-- **BATMAN** SPOTTED US SOMEHOW!

THEN, WE'LL GET OUT OF HERE AND TRY AGAIN LATER! THAT CARGO-CRANE WILL KEEP THE **BAT-PLANE** FROM FOLLOWING US!

THAT'S MAYNE MALAN, A WANTED THIEF! BUT BY THE TIME WE GET THIS CRANE OFF THE **BAT-PLANE**, IT'LL BE TOO LATE TO CATCH HIM!

AND AS HIGH-POWERED THIEVES MAKE A FAST ESCAPE...

I'M KING ERIC OF NORANIA, AND THESE ARE CHANCELLOR ZARITS AND COUNT VIRAS! I CERTAINLY ENJOYED SEEING THE FAMOUS **BATMAN** IN ACTION!

THAT ATTEMPT WAS AIMED AT YOU, YOUR MAJESTY! YOU'RE NOT SAFE!

I'LL VOUCH FOR HIS MAJESTY'S SAFETY-- IF I CAN SEE HIM ALONE!

SHORTLY, IN THE KING'S CABIN...

SO THAT'S WHAT THOSE CROOKS WERE AFTER... THE CROWN JEWELS OF NORANIA! IT WAS RISKY TO BRING THEM!

PERHAPS... BUT I MUST WEAR THEM WHEN I MAKE AN IMPORTANT OFFICIAL SPEECH HERE! YOU SEE, I'VE COME TO TRY AND GET A LOAN THAT MY COUNTRY BADLY NEEDS!

MALAN IS A RUTHLESS CROOK, AND I'M AFRAID YOU'RE IN GRAVE DANGER, YOUR MAJESTY! THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO CHANGE PLACES WITH **ME**, UNTIL THIS PUBLIC RECEPTION IS OVER!

YOU MEAN, YOU'LL IMPERSONATE ME, AND **I'LL** BECOME **BATMAN**? THAT WOULD BE A THRILL!

THUS, AS THE LINER NEARS THE DOCKS, THE MAKE-UP SKILL OF **BATMAN** TRANSFORMS HIM INTO A DOUBLE OF KING ERIC...

I HOPE YOU'LL PARDON THE SCREEN... I CAN'T LET EVEN YOU SEE MY REAL FACE UNTIL IT'S DISGUISED!

I UNDERSTAND! IT WILL BE A GREAT ADVENTURE FOR ME, BEING THE **BATMAN** OF WHOM I'VE READ SO MUCH!

AND PRESENTLY, GOTHAM CITY GIVES A TRADITIONAL TICKER-TAPE RECEPTION TO A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR..

TO DRIVE THE **BATMOBILE** AND WEAR THIS COSTUME... I'D NEVER HAD A THRILL LIKE THIS!

THE WORST DANGER WILL BE PAST WHEN THIS PUBLIC RECEPTION IS OVER AND WE CAN RE-EXCHANGE IDENTITIES!

BUT LATER, IN THE GOTHAM CITY MANSION LOANED TO KING ERIC, **BATMAN** FINDS IT'S EASIER TO **START** PLAYING KING THAN TO **STOP**...

NO, I WANT TO KEEP ON BEING **BATMAN**--ER--I MEAN, I WANT YOU TO PLAY MY PART TILL THOSE CROOKS ARE CAUGHT AND ALL DANGER IS OVER!

PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT, **ROBIN** WILL LOOK AFTER YOU, AND YOU TWO CAN STAY NEARBY, PRETENDING TO GUARD ME!

BATMAN HAS FACED REPORTERS BEFORE--BUT NOT AS ROYALTY...

MAY WE HAVE A PICTURE OF YOU IN YOUR CROWN, KING ERIC?

HIS MAJESTY WEARS THE CROWN ONLY ON STATE OCCASIONS! HE'LL WEAR IT TOMORROW, WHEN HE MAKES A SPEECH TO YOUR COUNTRY FROM **TELEVISION CITY**, AND NOT UNTIL THEN!

HMM... THAT SPEECH IS NEWS TO ME--AND IT COULD MEAN TROUBLE!

BUT A BIGGER SURPRISE AWAITS **BATMAN** WHEN HE REPAIRS TO HIS PRIVATE BEDROOM...

WHY, THE JEWELS IN THIS CROWN AND SCEPTER ARE **FAKE!** IT CAN'T BE JUST A SAFETY PRECAUTION, OR THEY'D HAVE TOLD ME ABOUT IT! LOOKS LIKE THE JEWELS HAVE **ALREADY** BEEN STOLEN--BUT BY WHOM?

SKILLFULL QUESTIONING OF TWO TRUSTED OFFICIALS ONLY DEEPENS THE MYSTERY...

BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO INSPECT THE CROWN JEWELS AGAIN--THEY WERE INSPECTED BEFORE WE SAILED! AND ONLY WE THREE HAVE HAD ACCESS TO THEM!

OH--OF COURSE!

IF THAT'S TRUE, THE FAKE GEMS WERE SUBSTITUTED DURING THE VOYAGE--BUT BY WHICH MAN? I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT! WONDER WHERE **ROBIN** IS?

TO HIS DISMAY, **ROBIN** IS BURDENED WITH A KING ON HOLIDAY!

LOOK... THE **BAT-SIGNAL!** I'VE READ ALL ABOUT IT... WE MUST ANSWER ITS SUMMONS AT ONCE!

BUT YOUR MAJESTY, I MEAN--ER--**BATMAN**... YOU SHOULD STAY HERE!

NONSENSE! AFTER DULL ROYAL ROUTINE ALL THESE YEARS, I'M NOT PASSING UP THIS CHANCE FOR ADVENTURE!

OH, OH... **BATMAN** ISN'T GOING TO LIKE THIS-- BUT I'LL LOOK AFTER KING ERIC!

AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, COMMISSIONER GORDON MEETS A STRANGELY CHANGED **BATMAN**...

WHAT IS IT, COMMISSIONER? YOU HAVE OUR PERMISSION TO SPEAK!

YOUR PERMISSION? WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, **BATMAN**?

BATMAN'S JUST--ER--KIDDING, COMMISSIONER!

HMPH-- THIS IS NO KIDDING MATTER! A PATROL CAR REPORTED GLIMPSING MAYNE MALAN, THE THIEF WHO TRIED TO ROB THE LINER TODAY, NEAR **SUMMER STREET** AND **80TH AVENUE**!

THEN WE'LL GET AFTER HIM FAST! COME ON, **ROBIN**

BUT-- BUT...

MINUTES LATER...

PLEASE TAKE IT EASY, YOUR MAJESTY!

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DRIVE A HIGH-POWERED CAR, BUT MY GUARDS WOULDN'T LET ME RISK IT! BUT THIS IS MY NIGHT OUT-- SO HANG ON!

SOON... YOU SAY THIS IS THE NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE THE THIEVES WERE SEEN, **ROBIN**--! BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF THEM HERE NOW!

WAIT-- THAT BIG EXCAVATING SHOVEL HAS BEEN MOVED FROM THE BUILDING-SITE NEARBY! THEY COULD'VE USED IT TO CLIMB INTO THE HELICOPTER FACTORY!

HIS MAJESTY "BATMAN" IS ONLY TOO EAGER TO INVESTIGATE...

YOU WERE RIGHT, **ROBIN**-- THERE THEY ARE, TRYING TO STEAL A HELICOPTER! STOP, THIEVES-- IN THE KING'S NAME!

NOT SO LOUD, KING!

OH, GOLLY, NOW HE'S DONE IT! GOT TO GET HIM OUT OF HERE...

WIND TUNNEL

BUT KINGS ARE USED TO GIVING ORDERS, NOT TAKING THEM...

HA, WE FRIGHTENED THEM! COME, ROBIN-- WE CAN TRAP THEM IN THIS BUILDING!

HE'S THE ONE THAT'LL GET TRAPPED--BUT HE WON'T LISTEN TO ME! HMM--THOSE SKYLIGHT HATCHES ON THE ROOF...

AS THE CROOKS ENTER THE BUILDING...

THAT WAS SMART WORK, DECOYING HIM INTO THE BIG WIND TUNNEL! BUT WHERE'S THE BRAT?

NEVER MIND HIM-- WE GOT BATMAN! I'LL JUST TURN THE AIR-BLAST ON FULL AND...

SO BY THE TIME ROBIN CAN RESUME THE CHASE...

WAIT... NO TIME FOR THAT-- HERE COMES ROBIN! AND THAT HELICOPTER IS MORE IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW THAN BATMAN! COME ON...

CAN'T FOLLOW THEM... MUST GET THE KING OUT OF THAT WIND-TUNNEL AT ONCE!

THEY'VE ESCAPED--BUT PERHAPS WE CAN KEEP THAT HELICOPTER IN SIGHT FROM THE BATMOBILE...

NOT A CHANCE! WHAT WE'VE GOT TO DO NOW IS FIGURE OUT WHY THEY STOLE IT... AND YOU HAVE TO GET BACK AND RE-EXCHANGE IDENTITIES WITH BATMAN, SO YOU CAN MAKE YOUR TV SPEECH!

...UNLESS THEY USE THE ONE WAY NOBODY WOULD EXPECT THEM TO!

OH, NO-- I'M HAVING MUCH TOO GOOD A TIME! I'M A POOR SPEAKER ANYWAY-- BATMAN CAN MAKE A BETTER SPEECH THAN I, IF HE HAS TO!

WHEW! THIS EXPERIENCE HASN'T TAUGHT THE KING ANYTHING! WELL, BATMAN WON'T NEED ME ANYHOW, SINCE TELEVISION CITY WILL BE RINGED WITH GUARDS FOR THE ROYAL ADDRESS, AND NO CROOKS CAN GET IN THERE...

OKAY-- LET'S GO, KING...ER... BATMAN! I SEE NOW WHAT THE CROOKS' PLAN IS-- WE'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST!

CARRY ON!

MEANWHILE, WHERE A WORRIED **BATMAN** HAS BEEN SPENDING A SLEEPLESS NIGHT...

THE CHANCELLOR **COULD** HAVE SUBSTITUTED THOSE FAKE JEWELS AND TAKEN THE REAL ONES--AND OF COURSE, MALAN AND HIS THIEVES WOULDN'T KNOW THAT...

IT'S TIME TO LEAVE FOR **TELEVISION CITY**, YOUR MAJESTY!

BUT I CAN'T MAKE THAT SPEECH! I--UH--MEAN, IT WOULD BE TOO DANGEROUS, TO WEAR THE CROWN JEWELS IN PUBLIC!

THE POLICE WILL GUARD EVERY GATE INTO **TELEVISION CITY**, AND WE'LL HAVE A POLICE ESCORT! **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** ARE DOUBTLESS KEEPING SHARP WATCH, TOO!

AND SO, A ROYAL CAVALCADE SOON ENTERS THAT GREAT NEW BROADCASTING CENTER KNOWN AS **TELEVISION CITY**...

COULDN'T WE POSTPONE THE SPEECH?

IMPOSSIBLE! YOUR MAJESTY KNOWS THAT THE LOAN TO NORANIA, WHICH OUR COUNTRY NEEDS SO BADLY, MAY DEPEND ON YOUR SPEECH TODAY!

BATMAN AND **ROBIN** SEEM TO HAVE FAILED US--BUT YOU CAN SEE HOW WELL EACH ENTRANCE IS GUARDED!

WHY DID **ROBIN** LET KING ERIC RUN OFF AND LEAVE ME IN A SPOT LIKE THIS?

PRESENTLY, AS THE SHAKY "KING" BEGINS AN IMPORTANT SPEECH...

IT'S UP TO ME, SO I'VE GOT TO DO THE BEST I CAN FOR NORANIA!

PEOPLE OF AMERICA, MY LITTLE COUNTRY SENDS ITS GREETINGS TO YOUR GREAT ONE!

AT THIS VERY MOMENT, CLOSE BY...

AT LAST--**BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**!

BUT, **ROBIN**, THE CRIMINALS WE'RE TRAILING COULDN'T HAVE ENTERED HERE!

I'M NOT SO SURE--WE'LL SOON SEE...

MINUTES LATER, IN **TELEVISION CITY'S** GREAT PROPERTY WAREHOUSE...

WHY ARE YOU COMING TO THIS PLACE?

FAKE AIRPLANES OF ALL KINDS ARE KEPT HERE! THE CROOKS COULD HAVE BROUGHT THAT STOLEN 'COPTER IN AT NIGHT AND--AND... LOOK!

I WAS RIGHT-- SEE?

IT'S TIME, BOSS--THE KING'S SPEAKING NOW! IT'LL BE A CINCH, WITH THE GUARDS ALL ***OUTSIDE!*** WE'LL GRAB THE JEWELS AND GET AWAY FAST IN THE 'COPTER!

HOLD IT...THERE'S ***BATMAN*** AND ***ROBIN!*** WE'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF THEM FIRST!

OR PERHAPS WE'LL TAKE CARE OF ***YOU*** FIRST...

MY ANCESTORS USED SWORDS LIKE THIS TO ROUT RASCALS... I CAN, TOO!

NO--DON'T!

I CAN'T STOP HIM--- GOT TO STOP ***THEM*** INSTEAD! MAYBE WITH THAT PHONY ROCKET-SHIP...

THAT PROP ROCKET HAS COME TO THE RESCUE IN A LOT OF TV THRILLERS... I HOPE IT DOESN'T FAIL ***ME!***

AND JUST AS ***BATMAN*** FINISHES "KING ERIC'S" ADDRESS...

...SO AMERICA AND NORANIA, WE HOPE, WILL ALWAYS BE FRIENDS!

A GREAT SPEECH, YOUR MAJESTY! THE BEST YOU EVER MADE!

BATMAN AND ***ROBIN*** ARE BATTLING CROOKS IN THE PROP WAREHOUSE!

GO SEEK SAFETY, YOUR MAJESTY... WE'LL GUARD THE CROWN JEWELS!

YES, WITH OUR LIVES!

THEY WOULDN'T RISK THEIR LIVES TO DEFEND **FAKE** GEMS--SO **NEITHER** OF THEM COULD HAVE MADE THE SWITCH!

ALL RIGHT, I'LL BE SAFE IN THE NEXT OFFICE!

BUT ONCE ALONE, THE "KING" MAKES FAST TRACKS TO A MORE IMPORTANT DESTINATION...

BATMAN-- I MEAN, YOUR MAJESTY-- I MEAN...

THAT TRAP THEY USE IN TV JUNGLE STORIES OUGHT TO BE JUST WHAT WE NEED FOR THESE CHARACTERS!

CUT THE TRIGGER-ROPE, "**BATMAN**"!

DONE--"**YOUR MAJESTY**"!

QUICK, WE CAN RE-EXCHANGE IDENTITIES BEFORE THE OTHERS COME!

I'M SORRY I GAVE YOU ALL THIS TROUBLE, **BATMAN**-- THOUGH I ENJOYED EVERY MINUTE OF IT!

AND SOON, WITH **BATMAN** HIMSELF AGAIN...

WONDERFUL NEWS, YOUR MAJESTY! YOUR GREAT SPEECH MADE A DEEP IMPRESSION--OFFICIALS HAVE PHONED ME THAT THE LOAN TO NORANIA WILL GO THROUGH!

YOU'RE THE ONE TO THANK, **BATMAN!** WORDS CAN'T EXPRESS HOW MUCH YOU'VE DONE FOR US!

BY THE WAY--**YOU** HAVE THE REAL JEWELS, HAVEN'T YOU? **YOU'RE** THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD HAVE SWITCHED THEM!

YES--IN CASE THE LOAN WAS REFUSED, I MEANT TO PUT UP THE JEWELS FOR SECURITY, WITHOUT ANYONE KNOWING! BUT THANKS TO YOUR SPEECH, THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY!

SO DAYS LATER, WHEN A GREAT SHIP SETS SAIL...

HE'S A SWELL PERSON AND A GOOD KING, **ROBIN!**

YES--BUT HE'S A TERRIBLE **BATMAN!** THAT'S ONE JOB NOT EVEN A KING CAN FILL!

THE END.

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Complete SUNDAY NEWSPAPER SYNDICATED STORY

BATMAN ROBIN

EXCITED, YOUNGSTER?

SURE! YOU DON'T GET A CHANCE TO MEET FOREST RANGERS EVERY DAY IN THE WEEK!

IN A HEAVILY WOODED AREA OUT WEST, TWO CAMPERS DON COSTUMES THAT ARE MORE FAMILIAR AMID THE SKYSCRAPERS OF GOTHAM CITY...

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LATER... A RANGER LOOKOUT ATOP A HIGH MOUNTAIN PEAK...

HELLO! I'M OSBORNE, DISTRICT RANGER! GLAD TO HAVE YOU HONOR ONE OF OUR EAGLE'S NESTS!

AN EAGLE'S NEST TO KEEP AN EAGLE EYE ON THE FORESTS DOWN BELOW, EH?

YOU'VE GOT NOSY GUESTS, OSBORNE! ROBIN HAS ABOUT TWO THOUSAND QUESTIONS TO ASK...

DON'T LET HIM RIDE YOU, ROBIN! FIRE AWAY... OOPS... FIRE'S A BAD WORD! CHANGE THAT TO **ASK** AWAY! QUESTION NUMBER ONE!

AW..!

OKAY! HOW ABOUT THOSE STICKS ON THAT RACK?

THEY'RE **FUEL MOISTURE STICKS**... BAKED TINDER-DRY IN OVENS AND EXPOSED TILL THEY ABSORB MOISTURE FROM THE AIR AND VEGETATION... THEN THEY'RE WEIGHED FOR MOISTURE CONTENT.

THIS **ANEMOMETER** MEASURES WIND VELOCITY!.. THESE ARE ONLY SOME OF THE FACTORS IN PLOTTING FIRE-FORECASTING! WE ALWAYS TRY TO GET READY FOR TROUBLE IN ADVANCE.

AND HERE'S A FAN-BLOWN **HYGROMETER** WHICH MEASURES RELATIVE HUMIDITY IN THE AIR. LOW HUMIDITY INCREASES RISK OF FIRES!

YES, THERE'S... OH-OH! **SMOKE! A HOT SPOT!** HERE'S WHERE YOU GET A CHANCE TO SEE US IN ACTION!

SEE? WE WANT TO DO SOME FIRE-FIGHTING OURSELVES!

GRIMLY, OSBORNE LEAPS TO THE ROTARY FIRE FINDER WITH ITS PANORAMIC PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE FOREST...

CALL FOREST SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, JOE... I'LL GIVE YOU THE CALIBRATED READINGS IN A SEC...

RIGHT... LOOKS LIKE A SMALL ONE... A HUNDRED MEN SHOULD BE ABLE TO CORRAL IT...

IN A SHORT WHILE, FIRE TRUCKS REACH THE HOT SPOT AND ATTACK THE FLAMES...

THE WIND'S SHIFTING! IF WE STRADDLE 'ER NOW, SHE'S LICKED! BRING UP THAT BULLDOZER... WIDEN THE BREAK!

SUDDENLY, ON THE FRINGE OF VOLUNTEER FIGHTERS, BATMAN SPIES A MAN GAZING INTENTLY AT THE LEAPING FLAMES.. FACE STRANGELY EAGER... EYES AVID AS IF HYPNOTIZED..

BAT-MAN ROBIN

BY BOB KANE

WHILE BATMAN AND ROBIN ASSIST FOREST RANGERS IN FIGHTING A SUDDEN BLAZE, BATMAN SIGHTS A MAN STARING AT THE LEAPING FLAMES WITH A STRANGE INTENSITY...

WHO'S THAT, OSBORNE?

HIM? NEIL GAGE... HANDYMAN ON CHARLEY BRUFF'S RANCH! BRUFF'S A BIG MAN... SAY, FORGET THE LOCAL GOSSIP! CONCENTRATE ON THAT WATER HOSE!

A FEW HOURS LATER... THE FIRE HAS BEEN BEATEN BY THE STRATEGY OF THE FOREST SERVICE...

OH, BROTHER, I'M A WEARY MAN! WHAT NOW, OSBORNE?

GOT TO BACK-TRACK TO THE FIRE SPOT AND FIND SOME CLUE AS TO HOW THE BLAZE STARTED!

CLUE? CAN YOU FIND CLUES IN THE ASHES WHERE THE FIRE PASSED OVER?

AND HOW! CIGARETTE STUBS, CANDLE TALLOW, TRIFLING LITTLE THINGS... BUT PLENTY BIG ENOUGH FOR US! COME ALONG AND SEE!

SAY! HERE'S SOMETHING! A FLOCK OF HALF-BURNT MATCHES! AND THIS AREA ISN'T A CAMPERS' SITE! THIS FIRE WAS NO ACCIDENT! IT WAS A TOUCH-OFF... INCENDIARY WORK!

I'VE GOT SOMETHING! TRACKS! LOOK LIKE BOOTS!

GOOD WORK! I'LL BUILD UP PLASTER OF PARIS CASTS OF THEM!

NOTICE THOSE PUNCTURES? I'D SAY THEY WERE FROM HOBNAILS!

HOBNAILS HAVE AN IDENTIFYING PATTERN, ALMOST LIKE FINGER-PRINTS! IF WE CAN MATCH THOSE MARKINGS WE'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO NAB OUR FIRE BUG!

SPEAKING OF FIREBUGS, HAVE YOU EVER OBSERVED ONE WATCHING A FIRE? HIS FACE LIGHTS UP, HIS EYES STARE... LIKE A HYPNOTIZED PERSON! I KNOW... BECAUSE I SAW ONE JUST A FEW HOURS AGO!

WHA-AT? WHO?

THE MAN YOU CALLED NEIL GAGE... HANDYMAN FOR THE BRUFF RANCHHOUSE!

GAGE? COULD BE! HE'S A NEWCOMER IN THIS SECTION... ONLY HERE A COUPLE OF WEEKS? HMM-M! LET'S CLEAN UP AND PAY A CALL ON MR. NEIL GAGE!

NEIL, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE! YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS! DID ANYONE SEE YOU?

EVERYBODY WAS TOO BUSY! MARY, YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THAT FIRE! ALL THOSE BIG TREES ... BURNING... DYING...

IT WASN'T A PRETTY SIGHT, I ASSURE YOU, GAGE!

THAT COSTUME! BATMAN! YOU'RE BATMAN!

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ARREST ME! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SEND ME BACK TO JAIL!

BATMAN AND ROBIN

BY BOB KANE

CONFRONTED BY BATMAN, ROBIN AND THE DISTRICT RANGER, NEIL GAGE, A RANCH HAND, SUSPECTED OF STARTING A FOREST FIRE, LAUNCHES A SURPRISE ATTACK...

DON'T BE A FOOL, GAGE, YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE TILL YOU ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS!

HE'LL STAY!

THESE BOOTS DON'T MATCH THE CAST!

HE MAY HAVE CHANGED HIS BOOTS WHEN HE CAME BACK AFTER TOUCHING OFF THE FIRE! SEARCH HIS ROOM!

BATMAN, LISTEN! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! NEIL WAS ONCE A PYROMANIAC BUT HE'S NOT NOW! HE'S FIGHTING IT... HE'S FIGHTING HARD...

DID YOU SERVE A JAIL SENTENCE FOR ARSON?

YES, I GOT CAUGHT AT THE VERY FIRST FIRE I EVER STARTED! MAYBE THE MANIA DID GET OUT OF CONTROL THAT ONCE... BUT I'M LICKING IT NOW...

IT WAS TORTURE AT FIRST, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT... TO FEEL NORMAL... LIKE OTHER PEOPLE! WHEN THEY PAROLED ME HERE, MR. BRUFF WAS SWELL TO ME. I...

BRUFF **KNEW** YOU WERE A PAROLED PYROMANIAC WHEN HE HIRED YOU?

THAT'S RIGHT!

UNCLE CHARLEY!

GO TO YOUR ROOM, MARY! WE MEN HAVE THINGS TO TALK OVER! BATMAN, I'M CHARLEY BRUFF... THIS IS MY HOUSE GUEST, MR. ROGER KALE, HERE ON BUSINESS! LET'S GET DOWN TO CASES...

BOOTS, YOU MEAN! THE HOBNAILS MATCH PERFECTLY WITH THE CAST OF PRINTS MADE AT THE FIRE SPOT! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, NEIL GAGE!

BUT... I DIDN'T DO IT! ANYBODY COULD'VE WORN MY BOOTS...

DON'T WORRY, NEIL! I'LL GET YOU OUT OF THIS!

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTION OF BEFORE, BATMAN... YES, I KNEW NEIL WAS A PAROLED PYROMANIAC WHEN I HIRED HIM...

BUT WHY A PYROMANIAC? A PAROLED THIEF, YES, BUT A PYROMANIAC... IN A FOREST... WHERE FIRE IS A TEMPTATION...?!

HE SAID HE WAS TRYING TO FIGHT IT... I... BLAST IT... I DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU! I HAD MY REASONS FOR HIRING HIM!

BUT WHAT REASONS? I WONDER IF YOU FIND IT CONVENIENT TO HAVE A PYROMANIAC HERE? AND IF SO— WHY?

BATMAN! GAGE... GOT AWAY... SOMEBODY SLUGGED ME FROM BEHIND! I FOUND THESE WHEN I CAME TO!

THE NECKLACE MARY BRUFF WAS WEARING! SHE'S HELPED HIM ESCAPE!

TWO OF THE HORSES ARE GONE! THEY'VE MADE FOR THE WOODS... SAY, WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?

TO PHONE FOREST SERVICE HEADQUARTERS! WITH A PYROMANIAC LOOSE IN THE FOREST, WE MAY HAVE AN EPIDEMIC OF FIRES!

BATMAN ROBIN

WHILE BATMAN WONDERS WHY CHARLEY BRUFF, A RANCHER, SHOULD HIRE GAGE A PAROLED PYROMANIAC SUSPECTED OF INCENDIARY WORK, GAGE ELUDES ARREST... HIS ESCAPE APPARENTLY EXPECTED BY MARY BRUFF, THE RANCHER'S NIECE...

IF GAGE'S MANIA GETS OUT OF CONTROL, NOT EVEN MARY BRUFF CAN STOP HIM! WARN THE TOWN... HAVE THEM READY FOR ANY EMERGENCY.

IS THE TOWN IN ANY POSSIBLE DANGER?

IS IT? IT LIES RIGHT AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN... ONE BIG FIRE COULD BURN THAT TOWN RIGHT OFF THE MAP!

NIGHTFALL AT FOREST SERVICE HEADQUARTERS... EVERYONE IS TENSE... WAITING... WAITING...

HOW'S THE HUMIDITY?

LOW! IT'S A "CLASS 7 DAY!" THAT'S BAD FIRE WEATHER! IF GAGE STARTS A BLAZE NOW...

SMOKE! TWO SMOKES!

THE RAT DID IT!

EMPLOYING THE ROTARY FOREST FIRE FINDER, OSBORNE SWIFTLY PLACES THE FIRE POINTS ON THE PANORAMIC PHOTOGRAPHS...

ONE SMOKE IN THE CANYON! IT'S HAPPENED! CALL THE MAYOR! ALL STORES MUST CLOSE! EVERY ABLE-BODIED MAN, WOMAN AND BOY MUST REPORT FOR FIRE-FIGHTING!

A FOREST SERVICE PLANE TRANSPORTS "SMOKE JUMPERS" TO THE "HOT SPOTS"...

LIKE MODERN PARA-TROOPERS DROPPING BEHIND ENEMY LINES, THEY "HIT THE SILK"...

CAMPAIGNING AGAINST THE FLAMES WITH MILITARY TACTICS OSBORNE SETS UP FIELD HEADQUARTERS DIRECTING THE GATHERING TOWNSPEOPLE...

YOU TAKE YOUR MEN HERE AND WORK FORWARD... YOU GET A CREW AND START A BACKFIRE AT THIS POINT...

BATMAN AND ROBIN TOO, PITCH IN, WHEN...

I HEARD A YELL! LISTEN! THERE IT IS AGAIN!

IT'S COMING FROM THAT HUNTING LODGE! SOMEONE'S TRAPPED IN THERE!

HELP! HELP!

THE DOOR WON'T OPEN!

THEN WE'LL BUST IT OPEN!

GOLLY! IT'S...

MARY BRUFF... AND NEIL GAGE!

CRASH!

BATMAN AND ROBIN

MARY BRUFF... AND NEIL GAGE! BUT I THOUGHT HE...

NO TIME FOR EXPLA-NATIONS NOW, ROBIN! THOSE FLAMES WON'T WAIT!

WHILE A FOREST FIRE RAGES, BATMAN AND ROBIN FIND IMPRISONED INSIDE A BLAZING HUT, MARY BRUFF AND NEIL GAGE, A PAROLED PYROMA-NIAC— SUSPECTED OF STARTING THE FIRE HIMSELF!

RUN! THERE'S A CLEAR LANE OVER THERE! RUN! RUN!

MARY! LOOK OUT!

OHHH!

OH, NEIL, I MIGHT HAVE BEEN...

YES, MARY, I KNOW! FOR A MINUTE THERE I... DARLING, I NEVER WANT TO SEE A FIRE AGAIN! NEVER!

NEIL, LOOK! THE WHOLE MOUNTAINSIDE'S BURNING! THOSE FLAMES... UGH! THEY'RE EATING AWAY EVERY LIVING THING... GRASS, ... TREES...

AND THOSE OLD TREES... LIKE DYING GIANTS... I'LL NEVER SET ANOTHER INCENDIARY FIRE, MARY.. NEVER, AGAIN!

I FIGGERED WATCHING TREES BURN WOULD CURE YOU! IT CURED ME, TOO!

UNCLE CHARLEY! CURED... YOU, TOO...??

YOU MEAN YOU WERE A PYRO-MANIAC ONCE?

SURE, WHEN I WAS ABOUT NEIL'S AGE ... BUT I COULDN'T TELL THAT TO YOU RIGHT OUT, COULD I?

GUESS NOT! NEIL, DID YOU SET THESE FIRES?

NO... BUT I KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THEM— MR BRUFF'S HOUSE GUEST... KALE!

WHILE I WAS BEING TAKEN AWAY BY OSBORNE, SOME-BODY HIT ME OVER THE HEAD. I CAME TO IN THE HUNTING LODGE... WITH MARY BESIDE ME!

KALE'S MEN KIDNAPED ME TO MAKE IT SEEM AS THOUGH I CLUBBED THE RANGER AND FREED NEIL! KALE BOASTED NEIL WOULD BE BLAMED FOR THE FIRE... THAT THE FIRE WAS A DIVERSION TO EMPTY THE TOWN...

DIVERSION! TOWN! OF COURSE! IT'S AN OLD STALL, BUT THIS FOREST FIRE TRICK IS A NEW TWIST! MR. BRUFF, CAN ROBIN AND I GET TO TOWN FAST?

THE FIRE'S BLOCKED ALL ROADS... ONLY WAY IS BY THE RIVER, BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I'LL SHOW YOU!

THERE ARE MOTOR BOATS ON THAT LANDING BELOW... BUT THE RIVER IS TWO HUNDRED FEET DOWN! NO MAN COULD MAKE THAT DIVE AND LIVE!

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG! ROBIN AND I **WILL** MAKE THAT DIVE... AND LIVE!

BATMAN AND ROBIN

BOB KANE

WHEN ALL ROADS TO A VALLEY TOWN ARE CUT OFF BY A FOREST FIRE THE TOWNSPEOPLE ARE FIGHTING, BATMAN DECIDES ON A BOLD MOVE IN ORDER TO CAPTURE THE THUGS RESPONSIBLE...

YOU...YOU CAN'T DIVE TWO HUNDRED FEET STRAIGHT DOWN TO THE RIVER.

ROBIN, SCOUT AROUND FOR TWO HEAVY ROCKS! HURRY!

HUH! SURE... SURE...

BU-BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY DIVE THAT DISTANCE WITHOUT TURNING IN MID AIR... AND YOU'D HIT THE WATER FLAT! YOU'D BREAK YOUR BACK!

THESE BOULDERS WILL DO FINE! NOW, ROBIN, LASH YOUR SILK ROPE AROUND ONE BOULDER AND TO YOUR ANKLES!

NOW, BRUFF... PUSH US OVER! DON'T WASTE TIME SPUTTERING ... PUSH US OVER THE CLIFF!

BU-BUT...OKAY! ONLY I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING! GOOD LUCK!

HIS FACE STRAINED, BRUFF HEAVES HARD —AND BATMAN AND ROBIN FLASH OVER THE CLIFF...

DOWN... DOWN THEY PLUNGE ...

WE'RE ALIVE! WE HIT THE WATER IN A CLEAN DIVE!

NATURALLY! THE BOULDERS WERE OUR WEIGHTS... THEY CARRIED US STRAIGHT DOWN... LIKE A PLUMB LINE... SO IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO HIT THE WATER CLEAN AND WITH LESSENED RESISTANCE!

WHERE'D YOU EVER LEARN THAT?

FROM A FRIEND OF MINE... A STUNTMAN WITH THE MOVIES! ONLY HE USES A TRICK DEVICE THAT UNLOCKS AN IRON WEIGHT WHEN HE HITS THE WATER! SHOVE OFF, ROBIN! WE'VE GOT A DATE IN TOWN!

TEN MINUTES LATER... IN TOWN!

THE PLACE IS DE-SERTED! EVERYBODY MUST BE OUT FIGHTING THE FIRE!

NOT EVERYBODY! TAKE A LOOK OVER THERE!

STORE

KALE AND HIS STOOGES... ROBBING A BANK!

WHAT IN BLAZES! IT'S BATMAN AND THAT BRAT, ROBIN!

BANK

BATMAN AND ROBIN

BOB KANE

WE'VE GOT THE JUMP ON 'EM, ROBIN!

WHILE TOWNSPEOPLE FIGHT A RAGING FOREST FIRE IMPERILING THEIR HOMES, THUGS ARE LOOTING THE DESERTED TOWN...WHEN BATMAN AND ROBIN SURPRISE THEM IN THE ACT....

YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN, ROBIN! KALE'S TRYING TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT!

HOLD ON, MISTER... YOU'RE GOING PAST A RED LIGHT!

BLAST YOU, BATMAN!

A LITTLE IRONICAL, ISN'T IT, MISTER... THAT A MAN WHO PLAYED AROUND WITH FIRE SHOULD BE PUT OUT BY WATER!

NEXT DAY... AFTER THE FOREST FIRE IS BEATEN, KALE CONFESSES...

YOU POSED AS A MEAT PACKER SO YOU COULD BE A GUEST ON BRUFF'S RANCH IN ORDER TO CHART A FIRE THAT WOULD ENDANGER THE TOWN...

YES, AND WHEN I LEARNED GAGE WAS A PAROLED PYROMANIAC, I KNEW HE'D MAKE A PERFECT "RED HERRING"...

ONE OF MY MEN STOLE GAGE'S HOBNAIL BOOTS, SET THE FIRE AND LEFT INCRIMINATING FOOTPRINTS...

THEN, WHEN GAGE WAS ARRESTED, YOU KIDNAPED HIM AND MARY. WE'D THINK MARY FREED HIM BECAUSE SHE LOVED HIM... BUT MOST IMPORTANT - THE TOWNSPEOPLE WOULD BELIEVE A PYROMANIAC WAS AT LARGE!

RIGHT! WE KNEW THE WHOLE TOWN **HAD** TO TURN OUT BECAUSE A PYROMANIAC WOULD SET FIRES EVERYWHERE JUST FOR THE THRILL OF IT! IT ALMOST WORKED.

LUCKILY, I REMEMBERED THAT BANK HELD A LOT OF RICH RANCHERS' DEPOSITS!

LATER...

WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH... I WAS IN A MESS OF TROUBLE...

FORGET IT! YOU'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK NOW. GOOD LUCK TO THE TWO OF YOU!

SO LONG, BATMAN AND ROBIN! THANKS FOR THE HELP! YOU'RE A TERRIFIC TEAM!

ARE YOU KIDDING? YOU FELLOWS RISK YOUR SKINS EVERY TIME A FIRE STARTS... YOU SAVE MILLIONS IN PROPERTY AND HUNDREDS OF LIVES. **YOU'RE** THE HOT BOYS...AND I DO MEAN **HOT**!

THEIR JOB DONE, BATMAN AND ROBIN ONCE AGAIN BECOME BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON...

S'MATTER, YOUNGSTER! WHY DON'T YOU USE A MATCH?

NOT ME! I'M PLAYING IT SAFE FROM NOW ON! IN A FOREST I LIGHT A FIRE INDIAN STYLE!

THIS FAMOUS SYMBOL IS YOUR *Guarantee* OF THE *BEST* IN COMICS READING

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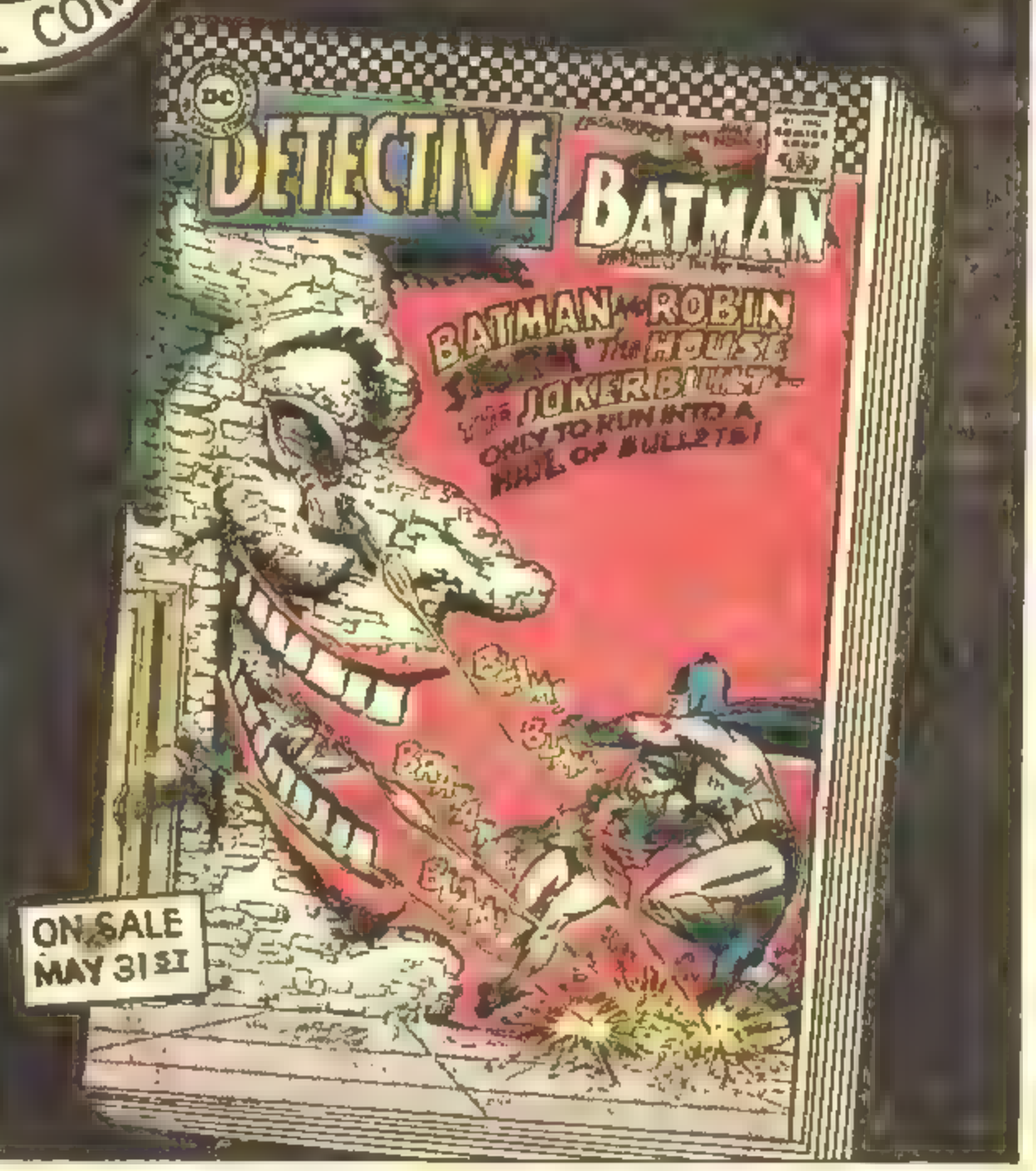
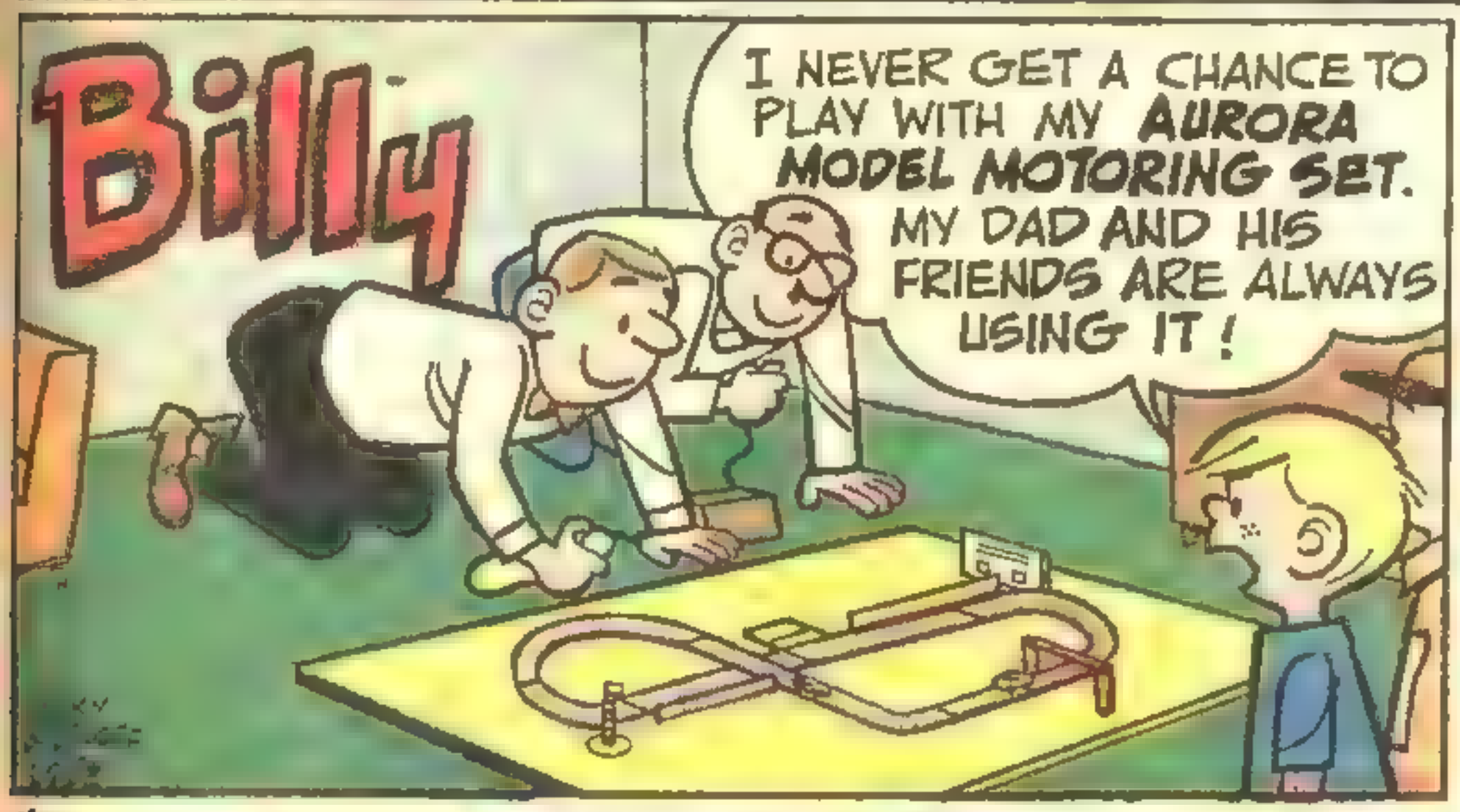
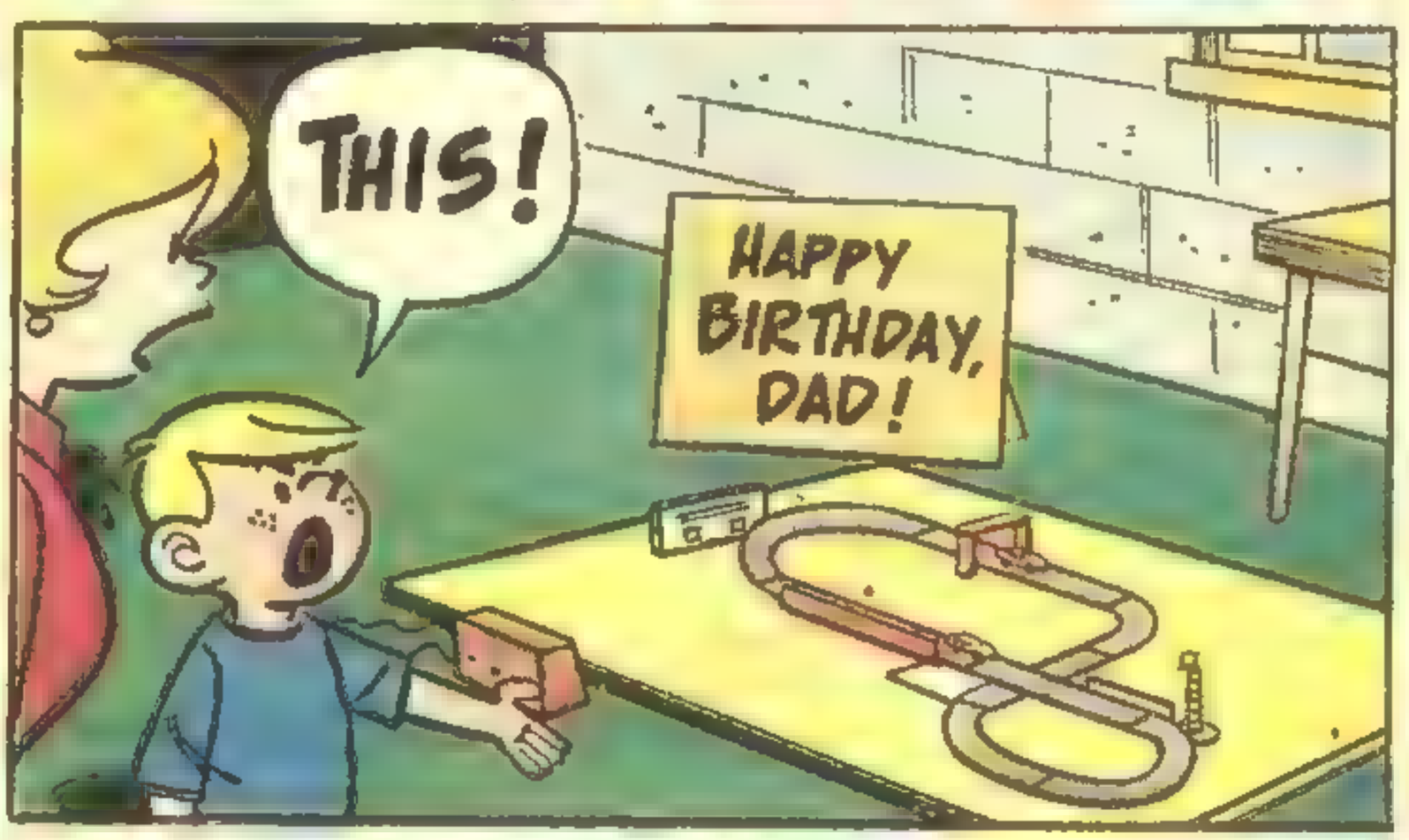
Exciting BATMAN ADVENTURES *in the Latest Issues of* BATMAN *and* DETECTIVE







GIANT BATMAN

Dear Editor:

I have written to express my appreciation of Giant Batman No. 30. To me, it is a collection of the very best of Batman and really lives up to its theme. It is stories such as these that has enabled Batman and Robin to live on through the years. Many comic book heroes have come and gone, but Batman and Robin have endured the tests of time and fulfilled the desires of readers in a changing world.

This brings back to memory the first time I became a comic book fan. It was shortly before the war and comics were then in what is now called the golden age of comics. I had my own favorites as a kid; unfortunately, Batman was not among them. But I liked him, as I did all the heroes of the DC National Comics group. The end of the war put an end to my comics reading—and I was not to touch them again until recently, when I started going to the magazine stands for them.

I have found out that most of my pre-war favorites have changed, some are no longer around. Others are involved in bizarre, fantastic adventures which I do not go for. Batman, however, has appealed to me. His stories are human, natural, capable of happening. The plots are well laid out. They are not just a case of hero going after villain. There is human interest in them, as in Sam Strong singing ballads of Batman and unknowingly spoiling his plans, Charles Barden building an amusement park and not seeing the results of his efforts, Vicki Vale noticing the unusual behavior of the "other" Batman and the difference in height with the real Batman. As a result of my new interest in Batman, I have decided to go on buying Batman comics.

—Lauro J. Jocson, Quezon City, Philippines

• • •

Dear Editor:

Your Giant Batman No. 187 (G 30) was just terrific. "The Batman of Tomorrow" was super-great. It was very clever of Batman to call the Batman of the future to impersonate him. And "Batman's First Case" was just fantastic.

—Mark Davis, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

• • •

Dear Editor:

I've just finished reading Giant Batman No. 187. It was fabulous, the best comic I ever read. Every story was just terrific. "Peril at Playland Isle" had me guessing all the way, as did the syndicated story of the Joker, which was great. The best story in the comic, however, also the best story I have ever read, was the "Ballad of Batman." It was a change of pace from the regular "hot pursuit of crooks" type. The really heart-warming ballad and the way the story ended helped its rating. Keep up the fabulous work.

—Lynnsey Guenero, Redondo Beach, Calif.

• • •

Dear Editor:

I have always read Batman, and (G 30) is one of the best. But you made an error. In "The Batman of Tomorrow," on Page 62, you have Brane Taylor saying he is from the year 3054. Which is it, 3054 or 3055? I liked "Batman's First Case" best, but they were all very good.

—Nelson Conner, Denver, Colo.

(Look at the story again. The reference on Page 62 was a flashback. It was 3054 when Batman of the future came to Batman of 1954—a year earlier than the case that Batman was working on at the moment. Hence, on Page 63, it's Batman of 1955 calling Batman of 3055. That's when the story first appeared, by the way.—Ed.)

• • •

Dear Editor:

In Giant Batman No. 185, in the first story, "Batman, Jr." on Page 3, panel 4, you show Batman in the Batmobile without the new look on his outfit, and throughout the story and all the stories in that issue. What happened to his "new look"?

—Karen Irland, Rochester, N.Y.

(The stories we've been using in the Giant Batman issues have the "old look"—the way Batman was originally portrayed without the yellow circle. That accounts also for other differences readers have noticed, like the Batmobile, etc.—Ed.)

• • •

Dear Editor:

Congrats on your special Giant Batman starring Robin, the Boy Wonder. I thought the best story was "Robin Dies at Dawn," the booklength novel, and the second best was "The Boy Wonder Confesses." My hat's off to you, and let's see more of these good stories.

—Scott Colman, Cedarhurst, N.Y.

• • •

Dear Editor:

I just read the Giant Batman 185. It was neat! "Robin Dies at Dawn" was one of the best stories ever! The way you put Batman on an alien planet was out of this world! Secondly, "Robin Falls in Love" was very nicely put together. "Batman, Jr." and "Robin's New Boss" were okay. The rest of the stories were good, but not as good as the other ones.

—Mary Beth Ries, Indianapolis, Ind.

• • •

Dear Editor:

As I am writing from England, this letter may arrive a little late, but I felt I must compliment you on your latest Giant achievement, "The Best of Batman." "Batman's First Case" was terrific. I knew the Caped Crusader's parents were killed, but I didn't know how. Secondly, "The Phantom Eye of Gotham City" was, in my view, one of the best Batman mystery stories you have ever published. It enthralled me from start to finish. Then came "The Last Days of Batman." For action and suspense, this story has rarely been equalled. Although the remaining stories did not reach these high standards, they were very good. All in all, this 80 page Giant certainly contained "The Best of Batman."

—Philip Waywell, Lancashire, England

BATMAN

With

ROBIN

THE BOY WONDER

FIVE HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE COLUMBUS DISCOVERED AMERICA, THE NEW WORLD WAS VISITED BY THOSE HEROIC SEAFARERS, THE ANCIENT VIKINGS! AND STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM, THOSE OLD NORSE EXPLORERS LEFT HERE A PUZZING ENIGMA THAT DIRECTLY CONCERNS **BATMAN** IN THE PRESENT TIME! SO MUCH DOES IT CONCERN THE INTREPID CRIME-FIGHTER THAT HE AND **ROBIN** SPEED BACK A THOUSAND YEARS INTO THE PAST AND DARE THE PERILS OF THE VIKING AGE TO UNRAVEL THE RIDDLE OF...

"Batman and the Vikings!"

BY

BOB KANE

ON A LONELY STRETCH OF COAST, HISTORIANS MAKE AN EXCITING FIND!

THESE ARE RELICS OF THE OLD NORSE VIKINGS, WHO CAME TO AMERICA LONG BEFORE COLUMBUS!

LOOK AT THAT CARVED ROCK! WHAT A WONDERFUL EXHIBIT IT WILL MAKE FOR THE MUSEUM!

SO, PRESENTLY, AT GOTHAM CITY MUSEUM, CROWDS VIEW THE RELICS OF A THOUSAND YEARS AGO!

WHAT'S THAT QUEER WRITING UNDERNEATH?

OLD NORSE RUNE-WRITING! THERE'S AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION ON A CARD UNDERNEATH IT!

AMONG THE SPECTATORS, BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, GET THE SURPRISE OF THEIR LIVES!

BRUCE, LOOK! THAT VIKING WARRIOR IN THE CARVING—HE'S *YOU!*

YES, DICK, I SEE! BUT I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE MY OWN EYES! AN EXACT DOUBLE OF ME WHO LIVED A THOUSAND YEARS AGO!

PART OF THE ROCK AND WRITING IS SPLIT AWAY AND LOST. THE TRANSLATION OF WHAT'S LEFT IS, "THIS IS THE DISGRACED COWARD WHO—"

"THIS IS THE DISGRACED COWARD WHO..."

SAY, LOOK! THIS GUY HERE IS A DEAD-RINGER FOR THAT OLD VIKING COWARD IN THE CARVING!

GOSH, BRUCE—IT WAS CARVED TO PERPETUATE THE SHAME OF SOME VIKING—

DISGRACED COWARD...

SOON, WORD OF THE UNCANNY RESEMBLANCE SPREADS...

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

BRUCE WAYNE!

VIKING COWARD—

COWARD—

AT HOME, THE WHISPERS STILL ECHO IN BRUCE WAYNE'S EARS...

SNAP OUT OF IT BRUCE. AFTER ALL, IT WASN'T YOU—IT WAS ONLY SOMEONE WHO **LOOKED** LIKE YOU!

I KNOW, DICK—BUT I FEEL AWFUL ABOUT IT JUST THE SAME! ANOTHER **ME** DISGRACED FOR ALL TIME!

BUT NO ONE JUST LIKE YOU **COULD** BE A COWARD, BRUCE! THIS DOUBLE OF YOURS IN THE PAST MUST HAVE BEEN MISJUDGED!

YOU'VE GIVEN ME AN IDEA, DICK! I'M GOING TO FIND OUT.' I'LL GET PROFESSOR NICHOLS TO SEND ME BACK INTO THE PAST AGAIN!

SNAP!

AND ONCE MORE, THE UNIQUE SCIENTIFIC METHOD OF PROF. NICHOLS HURLS TWO INTREPID ADVENTURERS BACK INTO THE PAST!

... A THOUSAND YEARS—THE NORWAY OF THE OLD VIKINGS—

A SENSATION OF FALLING THROUGH DARKNESS, A SHOCK, A BLINDING LIGHT...

THEN...

NORWAY OF THE VIKINGS, IN THE YEAR 990!

FIRST—TO FIND OUT **WHO** IN THIS TIME LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE ME!

WARRIOR, TELL ME—DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO LOOKS LIKE ME?

HO! SO YOU'VE DARED COME BACK TO NORWAY, YOU CRAVEN!

WAIT, I'M NOT THE MAN YOU THINK I AM—

ARE YOU LIAR AS WELL AS COWARD, OLAF ERICKSON?

IT'S OLAF ERICKSON!

WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE AND CHANGE TO **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** TO PREVENT FURTHER MISUNDERSTANDINGS!

IN A DESERTED BYWAY, A QUICK CHANGE OF COSTUME ...

SO FAR, SO GOOD—WE KNOW MY DOUBLE'S NAME—**OLAF ERICKSON.**

YES, AND YOUR MASK WILL KEEP PEOPLE FROM MISTAKING YOU FOR HIM FROM NOW ON!

YES, HE SHOWED COWARDICE WHEN FIGHTING AGAINST BYZANTIUM! NOW HE IS IMPRISONED THERE, AND DISGRACED FOREVER!

OLAF ERICKSON? THE CURSE OF THOR ON HIM FOR BRINGING SHAME ON US VIKINGS!

SO IT'S TRUE! MY DOUBLE REALLY WAS A COWARD!

IT LOOKS THAT WAY. BUT CAN'T A MAN REDEEM HIMSELF? IF OLAF SHOULD, IT WOULD CHANGE THE OPINION OF THESE VIKINGS—AND OF HISTORY!

OLAF HAS TO BE RESCUED THEN, AND GIVEN THE **CHANCE** TO REDEEM HIMSELF!

THAT MEANS WE HAVE TO FIND SOME SHIP GOING TO BYZANTIUM!

YES, WE SAIL TO RECONNOITER BYZANTIUM AND WILL WELCOME TWO MORE SEAMEN! BUT WHY ARE YOU MASKED? WERE YOU SCARRED IN BATTLE?

WELL, WE **HAVE** GOT SOME BRUISES FROM THE JOKER AND THE PENGUIN—BUT YOU WOULDN'T KNOW THEM!

LATER, THE VIKING GALLEY RECONNOITERS THE GREAT HOSTILE CITY OF BYZANTIUM!

THAT'S THE CITADEL WHERE VIKING PRISONERS ARE HELD! I WISH WE COULD LIBERATE THEM—BUT THERE'S NO WAY!

PERHAPS THERE IS! ROBIN AND I WILL SWIM ASHORE WHEN IT'S DARK!

WHEN NIGHT FALLS...

NOT EVEN OUR ACROBATIC SKILL CAN TAKE US UP THIS SHEER WALL!

BUT MY SIZE CAN TAKE ME THROUGH THE WALL—UP THIS STORM-DRAIN THAT EMPTIES FROM INSIDE!

I STILL DON'T LIKE TO LET YOU GO IN THERE ALONE!

YOU'RE TOO BIG TO GET THROUGH! JUST WAIT HERE FOR MY SIGNAL!

THE BOY WONDER BEGINS AN ODYSSEY THROUGH THE AWESOME DARKNESS OF THE GREAT DRAINS!

I HOPE THIS ISN'T A BLIND ALLEY!

THIS LEADS INTO THE CITADEL IF MY SENSE OF DIRECTION IS RIGHT!

SOON...

LUCKY THEIR GUARDS ARE ALL ON WATCH OUTSIDE THE CITADEL! NOW TO TIE OUR SILKEN ROPES TOGETHER AND DROP A LINE TO BATMAN!

MINUTES LATER, AN EERY BAT-WINGED FIGURE CLAMBERS UP THE GRIM WALL OF THE SLEEPING CITADEL!

YOU SLIDE DOWN AND HAVE THE VIKING GALLEY COME CLOSE INSHORE! I'LL FIND THE GAOLER AND TRICK HIM INTO TAKING ME TO OLAF'S CELL!

ROGER!

ON THE ROOF OF THE CITADEL, BATMAN IS SPEAKING TENSELY TO ROBIN.

LEFT ALONE, BATMAN DOES SOMETHING THAT HE HAS ALMOST NEVER DONE!

HERE, A THOUSAND YEARS IN THE PAST, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF MY FACE IS SEEN.'

AND A SURPRISED GAOLER MAKES A NATURAL MISTAKE!

OLAF ERICKSON, TRYING TO ESCAPE! BACK TO YOUR CELL OR I'LL CUT YOU DOWN!

GOOD! JUST AS I PLANNED IT.'

BUT AS THE DUPED GUARD OPENS THE CELL OF THE REAL OLAF...

I THOUGHT I COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS SURPRISE TO LOCK HIM IN!

BY THOR, YOU ARE ME! YOU LOOK JUST LIKE ME! WHO ARE YOU?

CLICK!

THERE'S TWO OF YOU! I DON'T UNDERSTAND—

I'M SOMEONE WHO CAME A LONG WAY TO HELP YOU ESCAPE!

I DON'T WANT TO ESCAPE! I CAN'T RETURN TO NORWAY—I SHAMED MY NAME FOREVER BY COWARDICE!

I HAD HOPED TO LEAD AN EXPEDITION TO VINLAND, TO FIND MY LOST COUSIN—BUT NO VIKING WOULD EVER FOLLOW OLAF THE COWARD NOW.'

LISTEN, I'VE A PLAN TO CHANGE THEIR OPINION OF YOU SO THEY WILL FOLLOW YOU.'

LATER, AS ROBIN ANXIOUSLY WAITS WITH THE VIKING GALLEY, BATMAN AND OLAF CLIMB ABOARD...

I WAS THE ONLY VIKING PRISONER IN THERE! YOU CAN CAST OFF AT ONCE, CAPTAIN.'

HERE THEY ARE!

OLAF ERICKSON, THE COWARD! I OUGHT TO DRIVE YOU BACK THERE INSTEAD OF RESCUING YOU!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH BATMAN? HE LOOKS AFRAID!

BYZANTINE GALLEYS ARE COMING! WE'LL BE DISCOVERED IF WE STAY HERE LONGER!

THEN WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE, THOUGH I HATE TO RESCUE THAT CRAVEN.'

AND BATMAN LOOKED EVEN MORE SCARED THAT WE'D BE SEEN BY THOSE OTHER SHIPS! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT.'

WE SLIPPED AWAY WITHOUT THEIR SEEING US! HO FOR THE OPEN SEA AND HOME!

LATER, AS THE GALLEY APPROACHES NORWAY AGAIN...

THAT OLAF ERICKSON WILL GET A COLD RECEPTION WHEN WE GET HOME!

BATMAN IS STILL TIMID—WON'T EVEN SPEAK TO ME! MAYBE HE'S BROODED TOO MUCH OVER THE COWARDICE OF HIS DOUBLE!

UPON LANDING...

OLAF ERICKSON THE COWARD! WHY HAVE YOU DARED COME HOME?

I KNOW VIKING LAW! I DEMAND THE RIGHT TO PROVE MY COURAGE BY THE THREE ORDEALS!

LET OLAF ENDURE THE THREE ORDEALS, IF HE DARES! IT IS HIS RIGHT!

WE'LL MAKE THE ORDEALS ESPECIALLY HARD FOR THIS COWARD!

BATMAN EVEN SEEMS AFRAID OF THIS CROWD!

SOON, THE FIRST ORDEAL OF ANCIENT VIKING CUSTOM—THE *IDROTTIR*, OR WRESTLING!

WHAT STRANGE HOLD IS THE COWARD OLAF USING ON OUR CHAMPION SWAIN?

WHY—THAT'S A FLYING MARE OLAF'S USING! NOBODY IN THIS AGE KNOWS THAT HOLD!

OLAF WINS—AND PASSES THE FIRST ORDEAL OF COURAGE!

NOW I GET IT! SO THAT'S WHY BATMAN'S BEEN SO TIMID AND STRANGE!

SEIZING A MOMENT BETWEEN CONTESTS...

YOU'RE NOT OLAF—YOU'RE BATMAN, AREN'T YOU?

YES, I CHANGED CLOTHES WITH OLAF—TO PASS THE ORDEALS FOR HIM AND GIVE HIM HIS CHANCE TO REDEEM HIMSELF! I HAD NO CHANCE TO TELL YOU!

THE SECOND ORDEAL—THE SKIN-PULLING, DANGEROUS TUG-OF-WAR CONTEST OF THE VIKINGS!

ONE OF THEM WILL PULL THE OTHER THROUGH THE FIRE!

BATMAN WILL NEVER PULL ANYONE THROUGH A FIRE! BUT IF HE DOESN'T, HE'LL BE PULLED IN HIMSELF!

OLAF PULLED HJALMAR ACROSS THE FIRE, AND WINS!

BUT THE PSEUDO-OLAF USES MODERN JU-JITSU SCIENCE TO VANQUISH HIS ANTAGONIST WITHOUT HARMING HIM!

AND HE MANAGED IT WITHOUT BURNING HJALMAR!

AND THE FINAL ORDEAL—THE TERRIBLE HOLMGANG, OR DUEL ON A TINY ISLAND FROM WHICH IS NO RETREAT!

OLAF CAN'T BEAT SKAL THE SWORDSMAN!

I HAVE TO WIN AND YET NOT HURT HIM! THERE'S ONE CHANCE! MODERN METALLURGY TELLS ME—

"THAT GRAY STREAK IS A FLAW IN THE STEEL!"

I'VE PROVED MY COURAGE! NOW WILL YOU VIKINGS FOLLOW ME TO FARAWAY VINLAND TO FIND MY LOST COUSIN?

A LUNGE, A PARRY, AND THEN "OLAF" STRIKES WITH ALL HIS FORCE IN A FLASHING STROKE AT—

AND WITHOUT HARMING SKAL, THANKS TO THAT FLAW I STRUCK AT!

SKAL'S SWORD IS BROKEN! OLAF WINS!

SKOAL TO OLAF THE BRAVE! WE WILL FOLLOW!

BUT LATER, AFTER BATMAN AND OLAF HAVE SECRETLY RE-EXCHANGED IDENTITIES...

THIS IS YOUR GREAT CHANCE, OLAF! YOU CAN REDEEM YOUR NAME FOREVER IF YOU BRAVELY LEAD THIS EXPEDITION TO VINLAND!

I'LL DO MY BEST! YET I STILL DOUBT MY COURAGE— *YOU* PASSED THOSE ORDEALS, NOT I!

WE GOT HERE FIVE HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE COLUMBUS!

DAYS LATER, OLAF'S EXPEDITION REACHES VINLAND, THE LAND NOW CALLED AMERICA!

THAT'S MY COUSIN'S FORT! HE AND HIS FRIENDS ARE STILL ALIVE!

BUT AS THEY REACH THE FORT—

THE SKRELLINGS!

THE OLD VIKING NAME FOR THE INDIANS! QUICK, INSIDE AND CLOSE THE GATE!

THERE ARE HUNDREDS TRYING TO BREAK IN! BUT WITH THE BRAVE OLAF TO LEAD US, WE CAN'T BE CONQUERED!

I CAN'T LIE TO YOU! I'M NOT BRAVE! IT WAS BATMAN HERE WHO PASSED THE ORDEALS FOR ME!

OLAF, IT TOOK THE GREATEST KIND OF COURAGE TO CONFESS THAT! YOU CANNOT BE A COWARD!

AYE, THE JARL SPEAKS TRUTH!

AND IN THEIR FAITH, A MAN AT LAST FINDS HIMSELF!

IF YOU BELIEVE IN ME, WE CAN'T BE CONQUERED! WE'LL HOLD THAT GATE AGAINST THEM SOMEHOW!

A STORM IS COMING UP! ROBIN, YOU COME WITH ME— I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

WHY HAVE ME MAKE A KITE AND LINE NOW, OF ALL TIMES? AND WHY DID YOU LINE THAT JAR WITH CHAIN-ARMOR METAL-MESH?

A JAR LINED WITH METAL INSIDE AND OUT MAKES WHAT THEY CALL A LEYDEN JAR! GET READY TO FLY THAT KITE!

IT'S BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S IDEA, THOUGH HE WON'T DO IT FOR CENTURIES YET! ATMOSPHERIC ELECTRICITY COMING DOWN THE WET STRING WILL CHARGE THE LEYDEN JAR OR CONDENSER!

BUT THE ATTACKERS ARE BREAKING IN NOW!

MOMENTS LATER, THE LAST HASTY PREPARATIONS.

NOW, ROBIN, GET THE LEYDEN JAR, QUICKLY!

DON'T GIVE UP, MEN!

A STONE SENDS OLAF TO THE GROUND, AND THE STOCKADE GATE CRASHES INWARD!

THIS SWORD CONNECTS THE SHIELDS TO MY LEYDEN JAR CONDENSER!

HURRY, BATMAN! THEY'VE BROKEN IN!

THE SHOCK ISN'T ENOUGH TO HARM THEM SERIOUSLY, BUT IT SURE HAS UPSET THEM!

OUR BRAVE LEADER OLAF IS ONLY STUNNED!

AND THE SKRELLINGS HAVE FLED! WE CAN ALL RETURN TO NORWAY NOW!

BUT BEFORE WE GO, WE'LL CARVE THIS ROCK TO COMMEMORATE THIS STRUGGLE!

BATMAN. I FEEL QUEER —DIZZY—

WE'RE BEING DRAWN BACK TO OUR OWN TIME!

QUICK, CHANGE OUT OF OUR BATMAN AND ROBIN IDENTITY!

SO THAT IT IS BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON WHO RETURN TO —

MY DOUBLE IN THE PAST PROVED HIMSELF A HERO! THEN WHY DID THEY CARVE THAT ROCK LATER, REFERRING TO OLAF AS A COWARD?

WE KNOW NOW WHERE THE ROCK ORIGINALLY STOOD — MAYBE WE CAN FIND THE PART OF IT THAT SPLIT OFF!

USING THE KNOWLEDGE GAINED A THOUSAND YEARS AGO...

THE HISTORIANS WILL TRANSLATE THE REST OF THESE RUNES FOR US!

WE'LL SOON SEE HOW THE WHOLE LEGEND READ!

LATER, AT THE MUSEUM, A MYSTERY OF THE PAST IS FINALLY SOLVED!

SO OLAF DID REDEEM HIMSELF!

THANKS TO THE HELP OF BATMAN!

"THIS IS THE DISGRACED COWARD WHO BECAME ONE OF THE GREATEST OF VIKING HEROES, OLAF ERICKSON."

PRESENTING the MAN of the HOUR— CLARK KENT!

I'LL BE WITH YOU AS CLARK IN A MOMENT... BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT SUPERMAN?

NO...WE WANT YOU... CLARK KENT!

DID YOU OR DID YOU NOT ACT AS THE HEROIC "FIREMAN OF STEEL"?

WELL, YES!

ISN'T IT TRUE THAT YOU ONCE HAD A SHOWDOWN WITH GANG LEADER AL CAPONE?

ER... IT IS!

AREN'T YOU THE STAR OF "CAVEMAN CLARK KENT," "THE TRUTH MIRROR," "CLARK KENT'S NEW PARENTS," AND OTHER SUPER-STORIES?

AND AREN'T THESE EXCITING TALES ALL FEATURED IN THIS LATEST 80 PAGE GIANT?

DC SUPERMAN NATIONAL COMICS

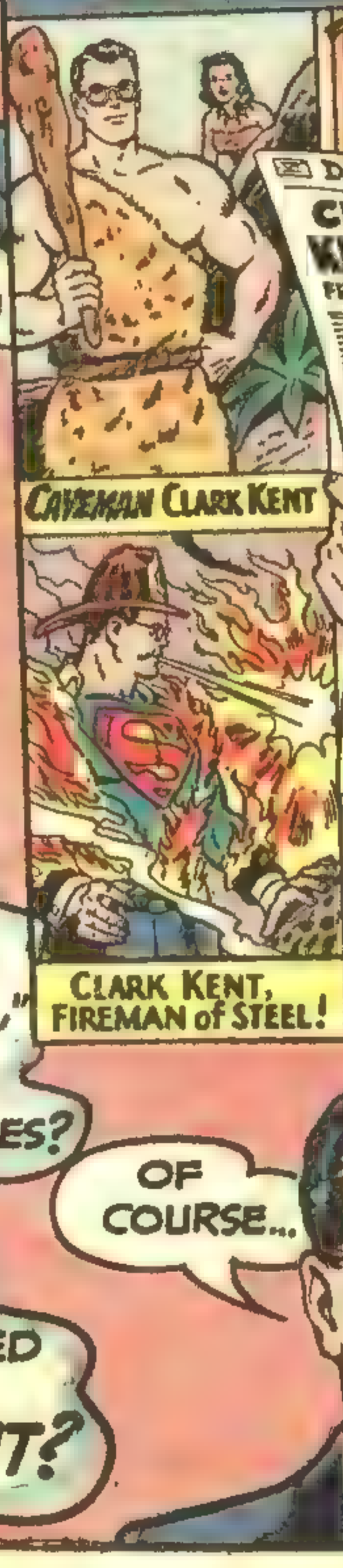
80 pg GIANT G-36 25¢

ADOPTED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

SUPERMAN

NO. 127 JULY

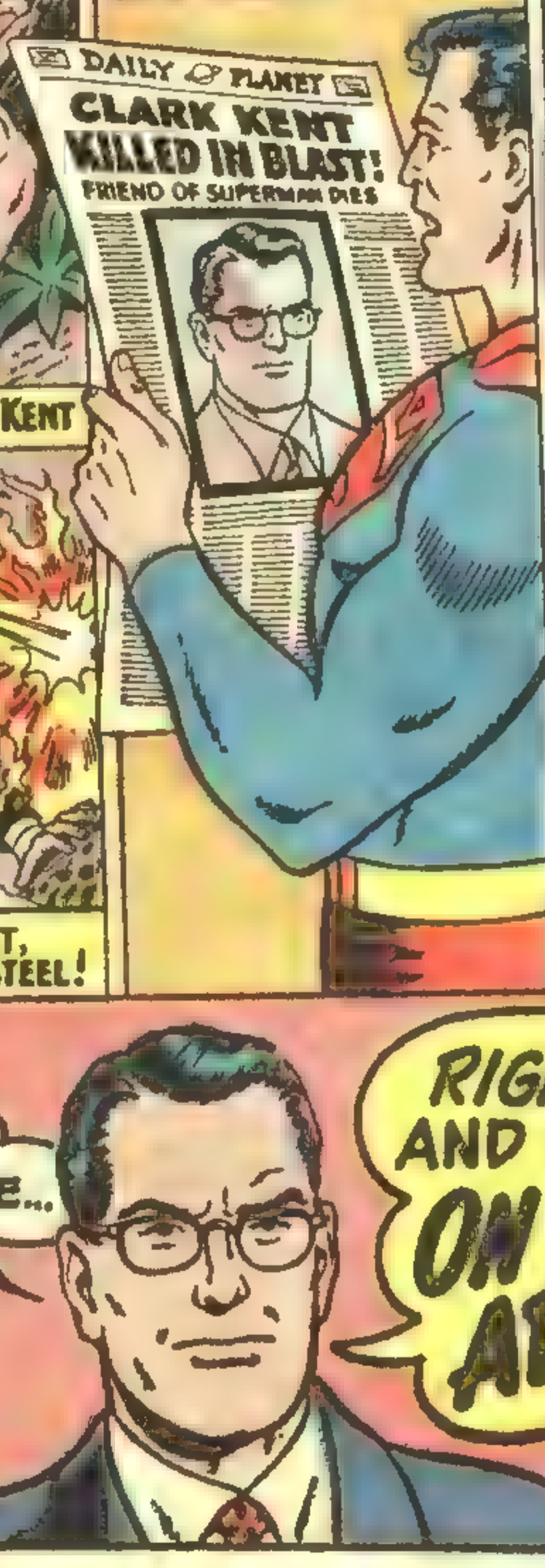
An ALL-CLARK KENT ISSUE Featuring SUPERMAN'S Alter-Ego!

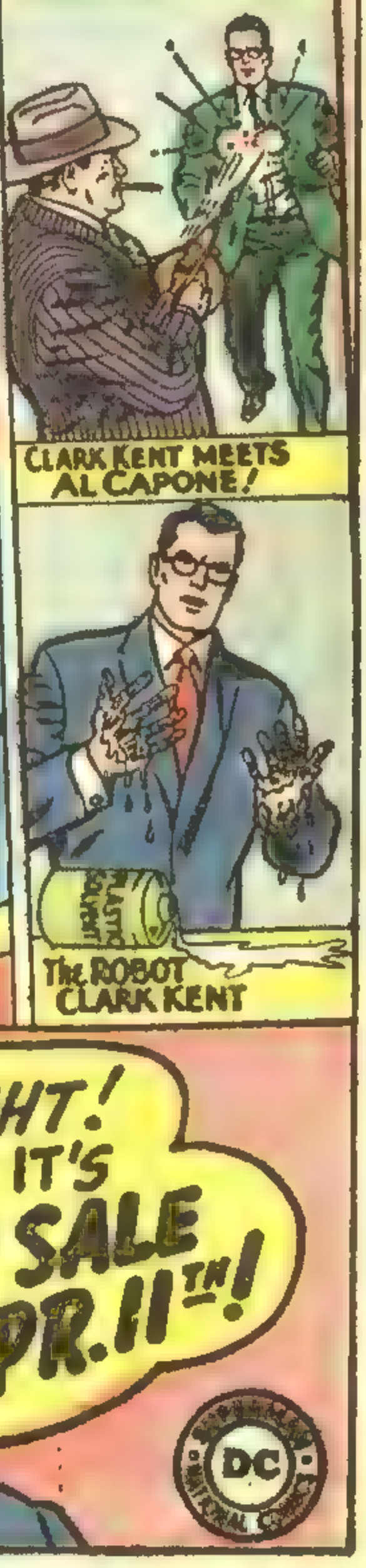


CAVEMAN CLARK KENT

CLARK KENT, FIREMAN of STEEL!

WHEN THERE WAS NO CLARK KENT!





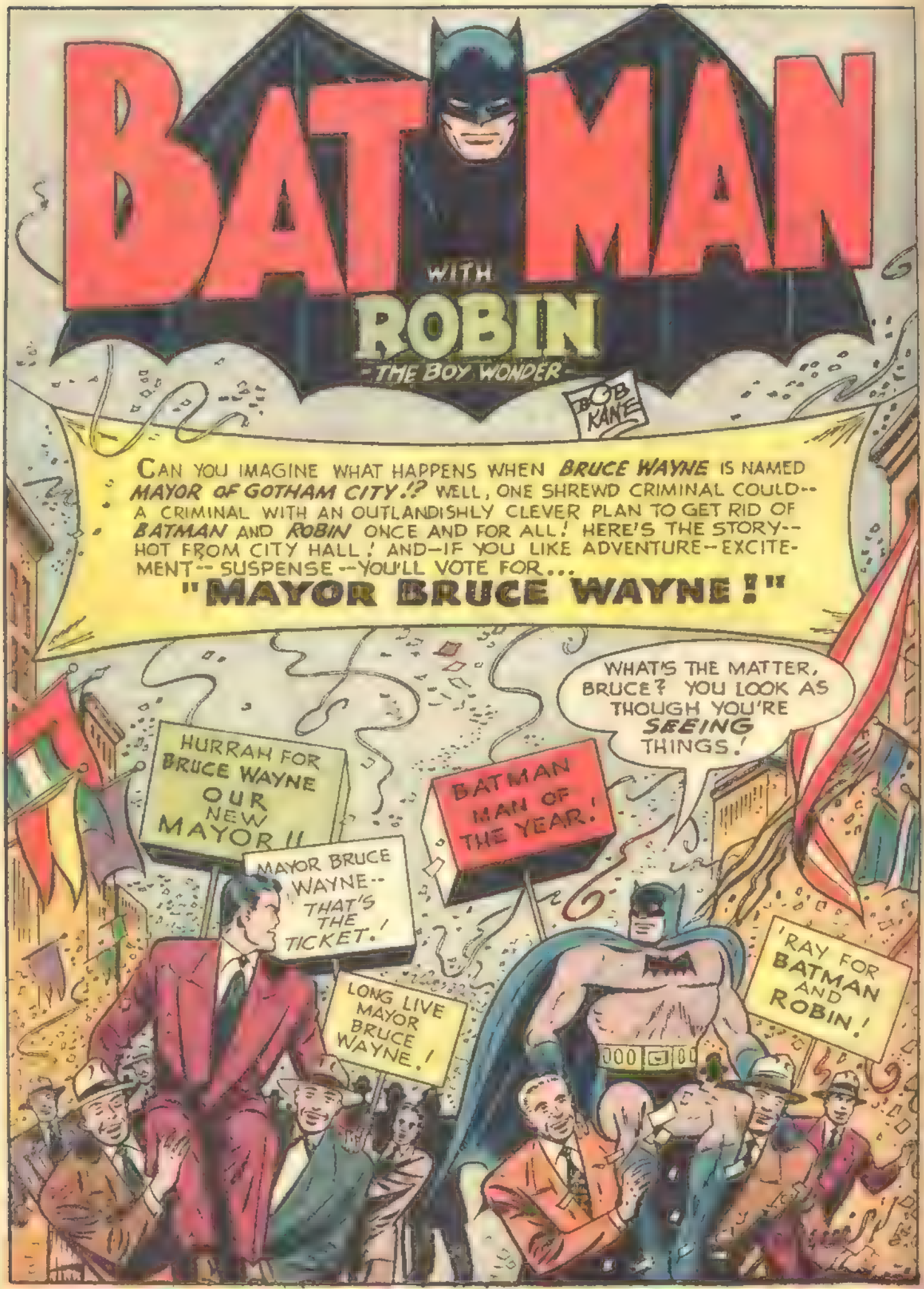
CLARK KENT MEETS AL CAPONE!

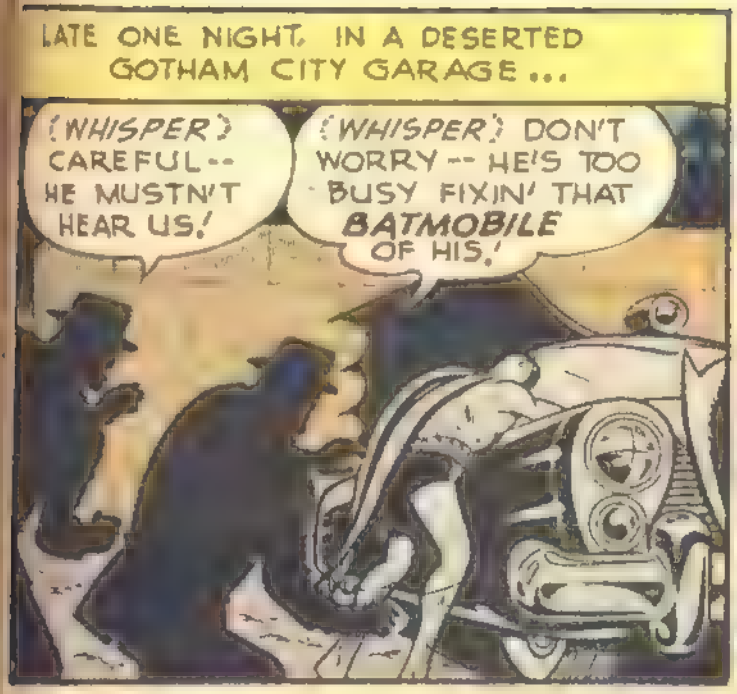
THE ROBOT CLARK KENT

OF COURSE...

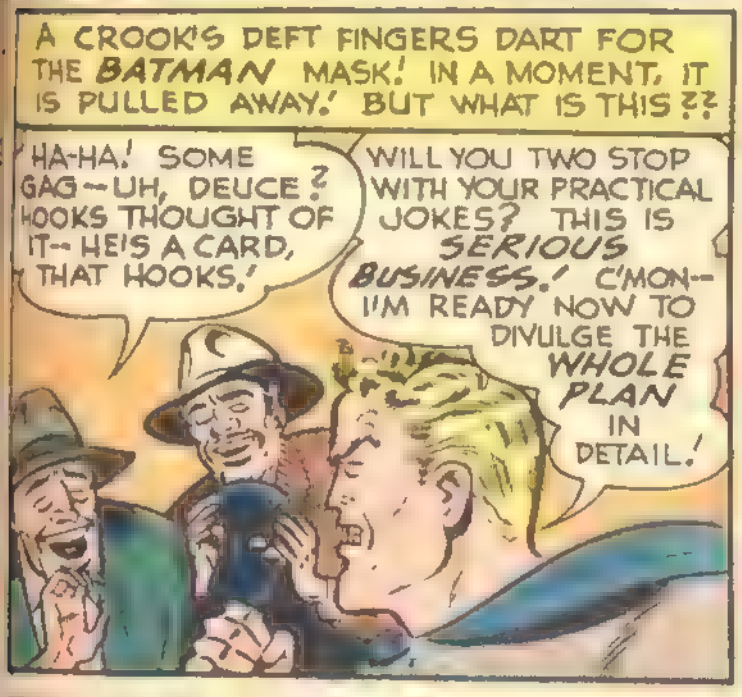
RIGHT! AND IT'S ON SALE APR. 11TH!

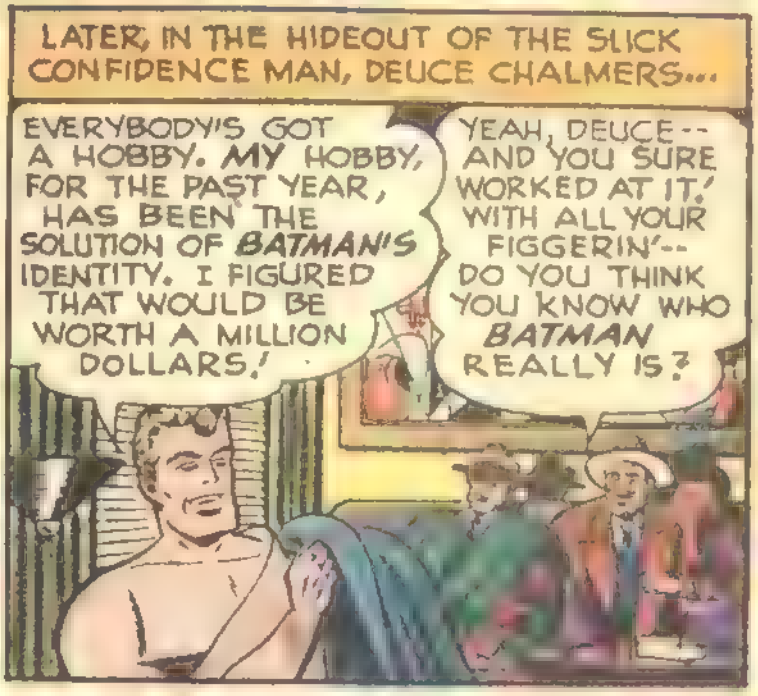
DC SUPERMAN NATIONAL COMICS

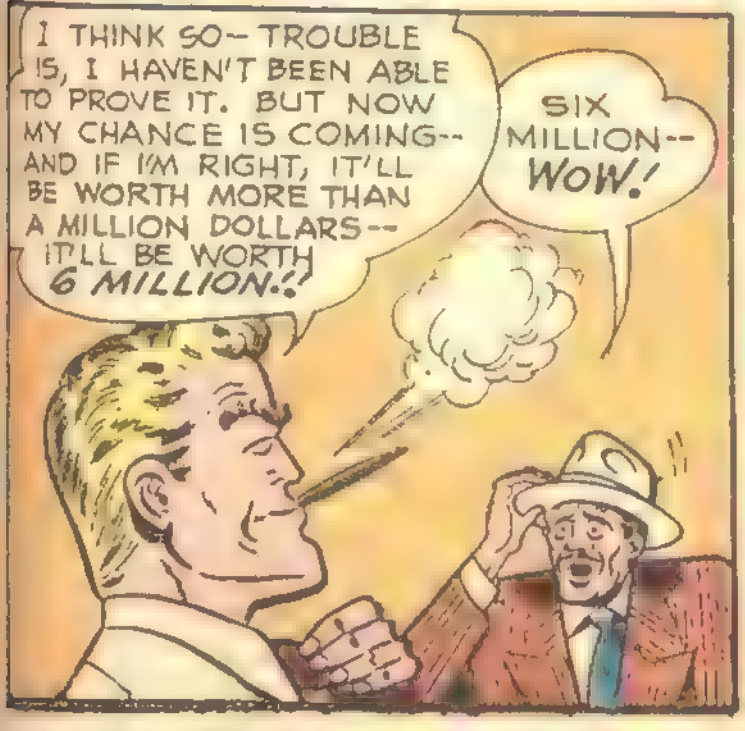

BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-
BOB KANE
CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN BRUCE WAYNE IS NAMED MAYOR OF GOTHAM CITY!? WELL, ONE SHREWD CRIMINAL COULD-- A CRIMINAL WITH AN OUTLANDISHLY CLEVER PLAN TO GET RID OF BATMAN AND ROBIN ONCE AND FOR ALL! HERE'S THE STORY-- HOT FROM CITY HALL! AND-IF YOU LIKE ADVENTURE--EXCITEMENT-- SUSPENSE --YOU'LL VOTE FOR...
"MAYOR BRUCE WAYNE!"
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BRUCE? YOU LOOK AS THOUGH YOU'RE SEEING THINGS!
HURRAH FOR BRUCE WAYNE OUR NEW MAYOR!!
BATMAN MAN OF THE YEAR!
MAYOR BRUCE WAYNE-- THAT'S THE TICKET!
LONG LIVE MAYOR BRUCE WAYNE!
'RAY FOR BATMAN AND ROBIN!


LATE ONE NIGHT, IN A DESERTED GOTHAM CITY GARAGE...
(WHISPER) CAREFUL-- HE MUSTN'T HEAR US!
(WHISPER) DON'T WORRY -- HE'S TOO BUSY FIXIN' THAT BATMOBILE OF HIS!

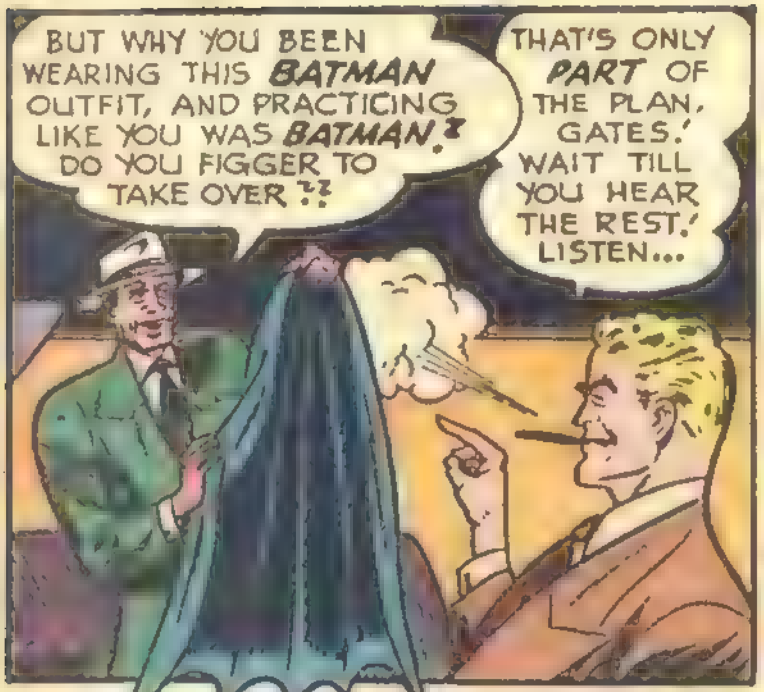
ALL AT ONCE...
HA-HA-- BATMAN! GOT YA COLD! HOOKS, RIP THAT MASK OFF HIS FACE!
IT'LL BE A PLEASURE!

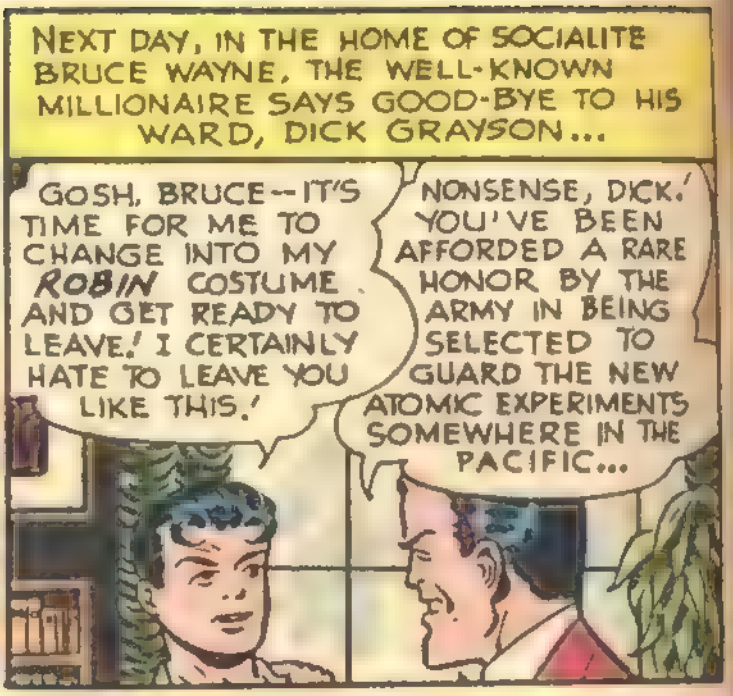

A CROOK'S DEFT FINGERS DART FOR THE BATMAN MASK! IN A MOMENT, IT IS PULLED AWAY! BUT WHAT IS THIS??
HA-HA! SOME GAG--UH, DEUCE? HOOKS THOUGHT OF IT-- HE'S A CARD, THAT HOOKS!
WILL YOU TWO STOP WITH YOUR PRACTICAL JOKES? THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS! C'MON-- I'M READY NOW TO DIVULGE THE WHOLE PLAN IN DETAIL!

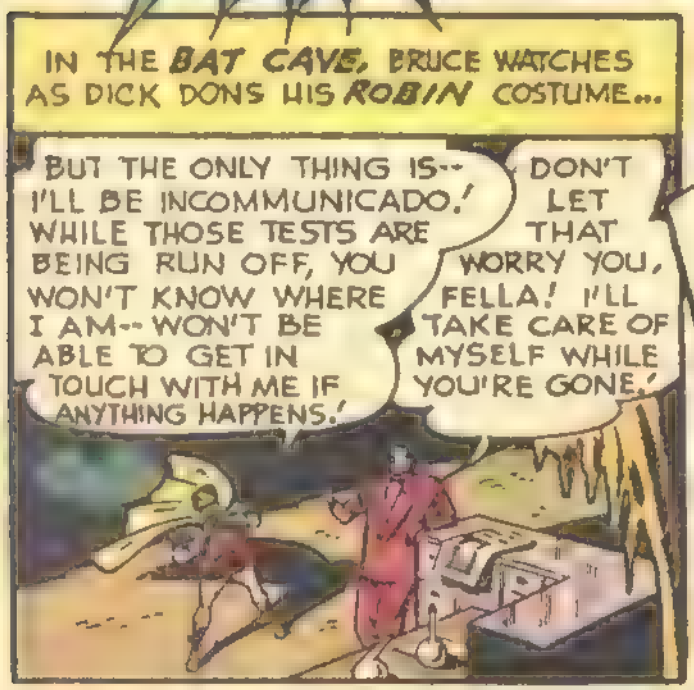

LATER, IN THE HIDEOUT OF THE SLICK CONFIDENCE MAN, DEUCE CHALMERS...
EVERYBODY'S GOT A HOBBY. MY HOBBY, FOR THE PAST YEAR, HAS BEEN THE SOLUTION OF BATMAN'S IDENTITY. I FIGURED THAT WOULD BE WORTH A MILLION DOLLARS!
YEAH, DEUCE-- AND YOU SURE WORKED AT IT! WITH ALL YOUR FIGGERIN'-- DO YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHO BATMAN REALLY IS?

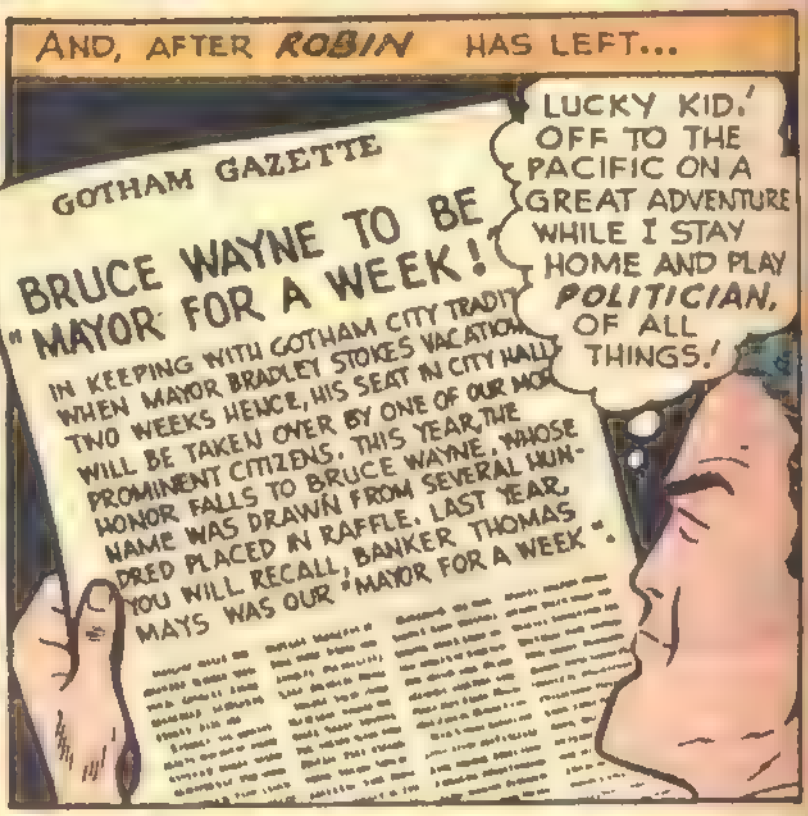

I THINK SO-- TROUBLE IS, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO PROVE IT. BUT NOW MY CHANCE IS COMING-- AND IF I'M RIGHT, IT'LL BE WORTH MORE THAN A MILLION DOLLARS-- IT'LL BE WORTH 6 MILLION!!
SIX MILLION-- WOW!

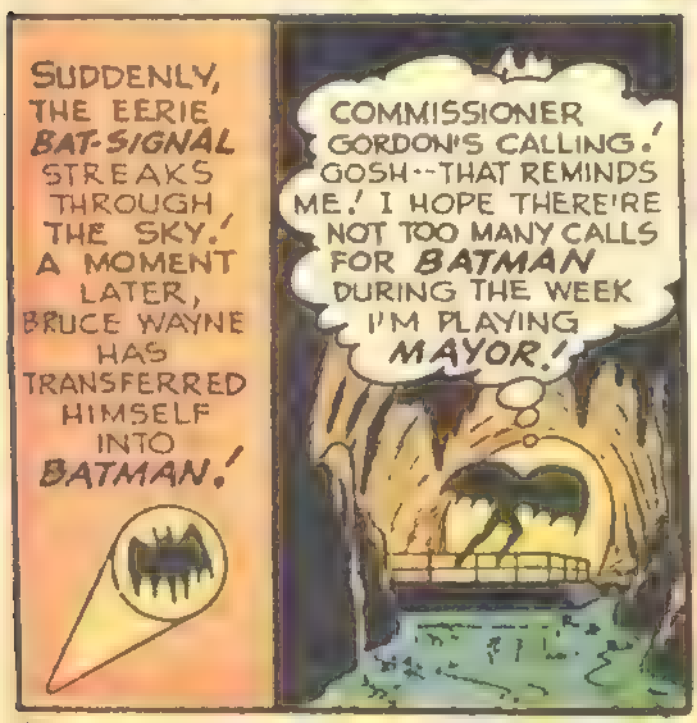
YES-- 6 MILLION! ALL MINE --WITH BATMAN GONE FOREVER!! THAT IS-- IF I'M RIGHT-- IF BATMAN IS REALLY BRUCE WAYNE!!

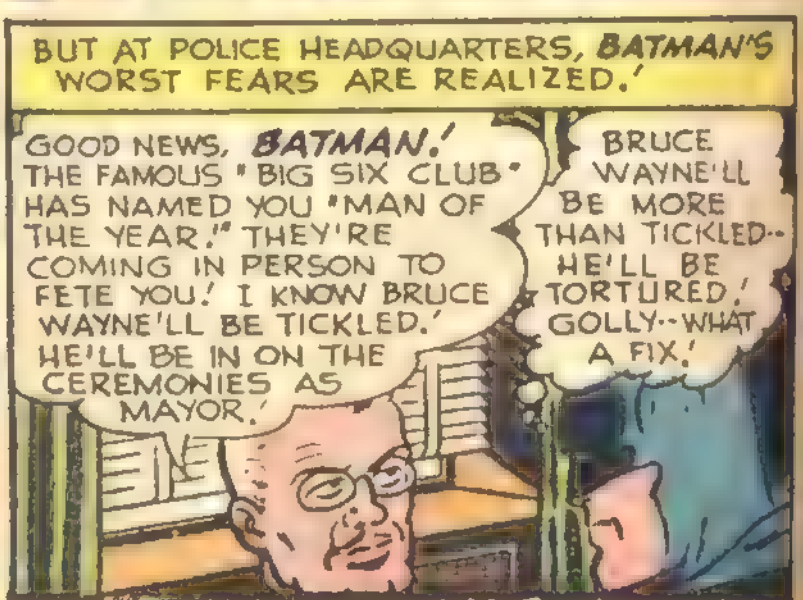

BUT WHY YOU BEEN WEARING THIS BATMAN OUTFIT, AND PRACTICING LIKE YOU WAS BATMAN? DO YOU FIGGER TO TAKE OVER?!
THAT'S ONLY PART OF THE PLAN, GATES! WAIT TILL YOU HEAR THE REST! LISTEN...


NEXT DAY, IN THE HOME OF SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE, THE WELL-KNOWN MILLIONAIRE SAYS GOOD-BYE TO HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON...
GOSH, BRUCE--IT'S TIME FOR ME TO CHANGE INTO MY ROBIN COSTUME AND GET READY TO LEAVE! I CERTAINLY HATE TO LEAVE YOU LIKE THIS!
NONSENSE, DICK! YOU'VE BEEN AFFORDED A RARE HONOR BY THE ARMY IN BEING SELECTED TO GUARD THE NEW ATOMIC EXPERIMENTS SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC...

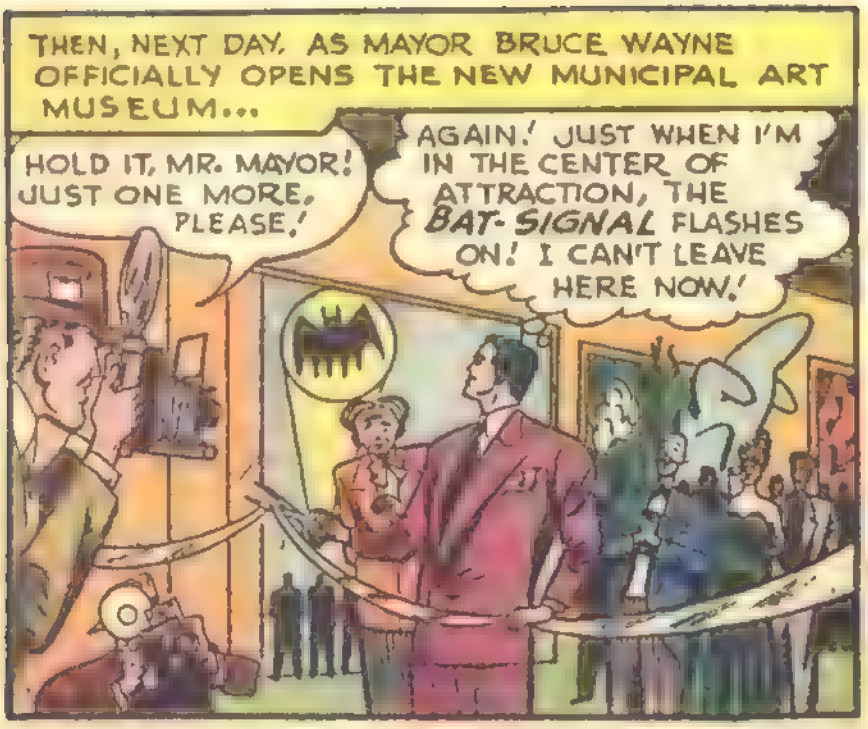

IN THE BAT CAVE, BRUCE WATCHES AS DICK DONS HIS ROBIN COSTUME...
BUT THE ONLY THING IS--I'LL BE INCOMMUNICADO! WHILE THOSE TESTS ARE BEING RUN OFF, YOU WON'T KNOW WHERE I AM--WON'T BE ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ME IF ANYTHING HAPPENS!
DON'T LET THAT WORRY YOU, FELLA! I'LL TAKE CARE OF MYSELF WHILE YOU'RE GONE!

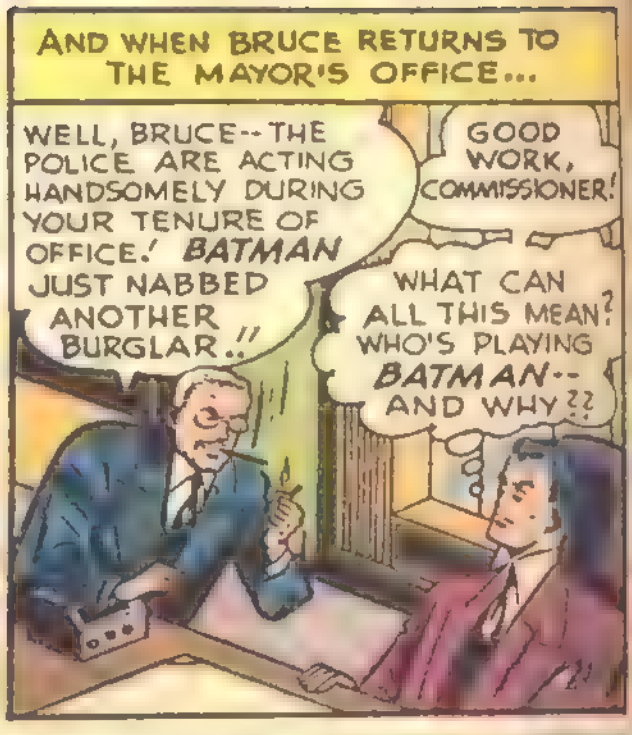

AND, AFTER ROBIN HAS LEFT...
GOTHAM GAZETTE
BRUCE WAYNE TO BE "MAYOR FOR A WEEK!"
IN KEEPING WITH GOTHAM CITY TRADITION WHEN MAYOR BRADLEY STOKES VACATIONS TWO WEEKS HENCE, HIS SEAT IN CITY HALL WILL BE TAKEN OVER BY ONE OF OUR MOST PROMINENT CITIZENS. THIS YEAR, THE HONOR FALLS TO BRUCE WAYNE, WHOSE NAME WAS DRAWN FROM SEVERAL HUNDRED PLACED IN RAFFLE. LAST YEAR, YOU WILL RECALL, BANKER THOMAS MAYS WAS OUR "MAYOR FOR A WEEK".
LUCKY KID! OFF TO THE PACIFIC ON A GREAT ADVENTURE WHILE I STAY HOME AND PLAY POLITICIAN, OF ALL THINGS!

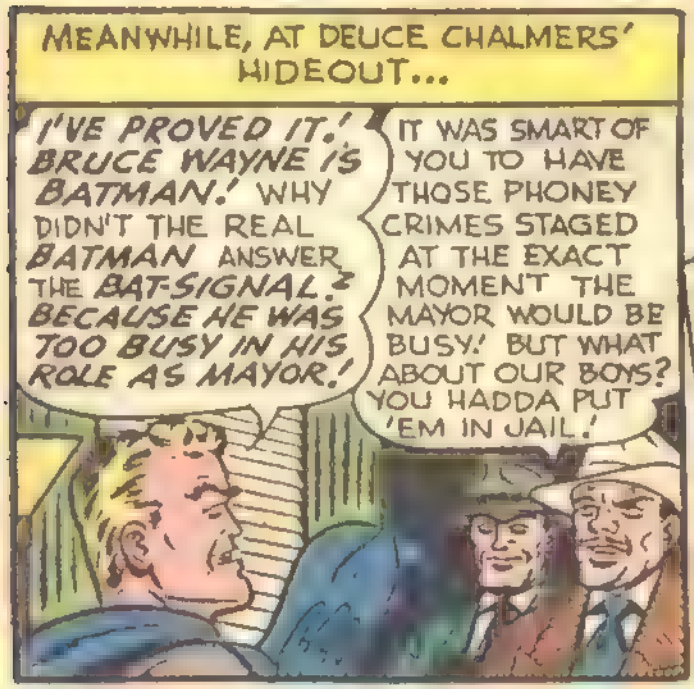

SUDDENLY, THE EERIE BAT-SIGNAL STREAKS THROUGH THE SKY! A MOMENT LATER, BRUCE WAYNE HAS TRANSFERRED HIMSELF INTO BATMAN!
COMMISSIONER GORDON'S CALLING! GOSH--THAT REMINDS ME! I HOPE THERE'RE NOT TOO MANY CALLS FOR BATMAN DURING THE WEEK I'M PLAYING MAYOR!

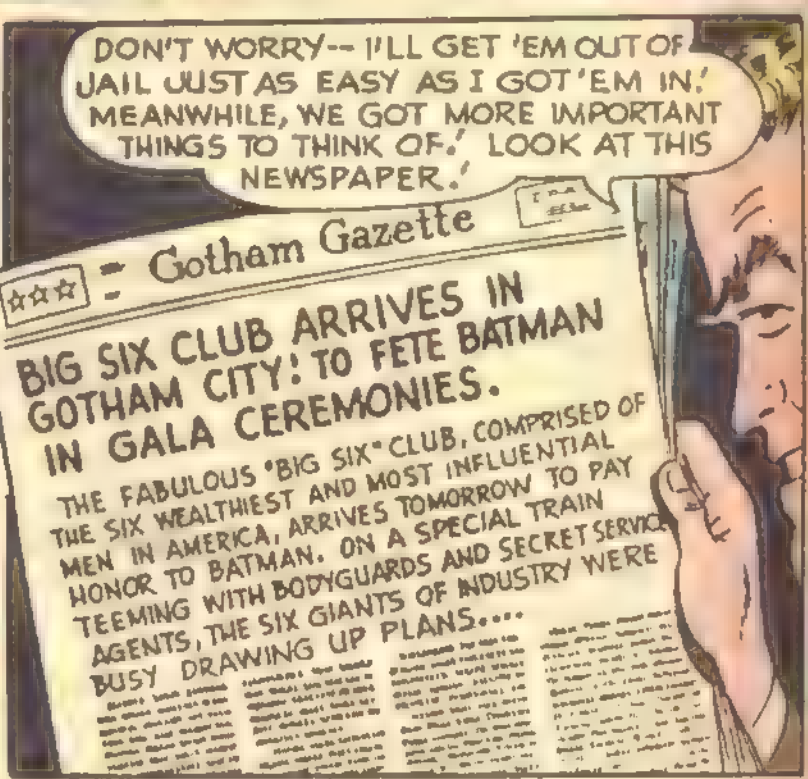

BUT AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, BATMAN'S WORST FEARS ARE REALIZED!
GOOD NEWS, BATMAN! THE FAMOUS "BIG SIX CLUB" HAS NAMED YOU "MAN OF THE YEAR." THEY'RE COMING IN PERSON TO FETE YOU! I KNOW BRUCE WAYNE'LL BE TICKLED! HE'LL BE IN ON THE CEREMONIES AS MAYOR!
BRUCE WAYNE'LL BE MORE THAN TICKLED--HE'LL BE TORTURED! GOLLY--WHAT A FIX!

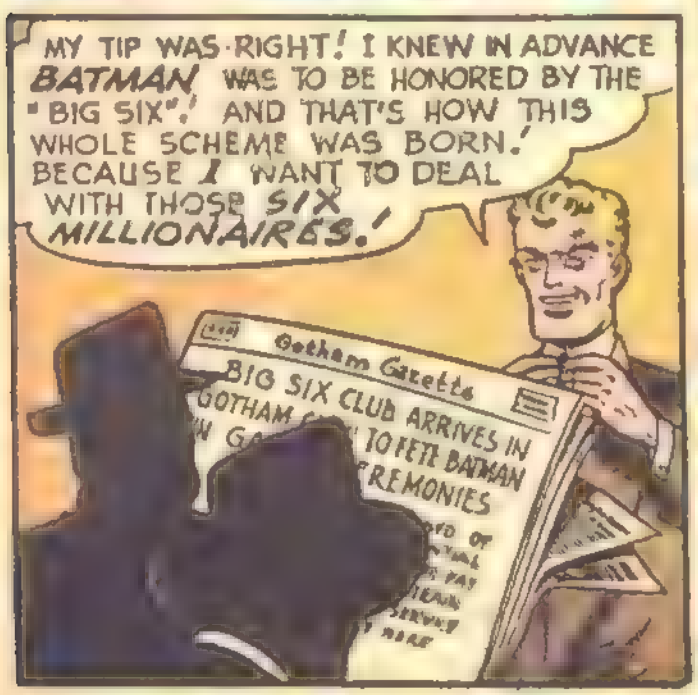
TWO WEEKS LATER, AS BRUCE ARRIVES IN CITY HALL TO TAKE OVER HIS TEMPORARY DUTIES AS MAYOR...
I'M FIELDING, SIR-- MAYOR STOKES' SECRETARY. I'LL BE ON HAND TO HELP YOU WITH ANYTHING YOU NEED.'
THANK YOU, FIELDING.' SO THIS IS MY NEW OFFICE-- NOT BAD.'
AHHH, YOU'RE A LUCKY MAN, MR. WAYNE.' HOW I'VE LONGED TO SIT IN THAT CHAIR MYSELF. THINK OF IT-- TO BE MAYOR OF GOTHAM CITY! IT'S AN HONOR-- IF EVEN FOR ONLY A WEEK.'
WHO KNOWS-- MAYBE YOU WILL BE SOME DAY, FIELDING.' IT'S POSSIBLE.'
OH, NO--NOT ME.' I'M TOO WEAK - TOO EASILY SWAYED BY OTHERS. I HAVE NO MIND OF MY OWN-- I GUESS I'LL JUST ALWAYS BE A SECRETARY...
WELL-- THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT-- IT'S A DECENT, HONORABLE PROFESSION.
THAT EVENING, AT 10 O'CLOCK, BRUCE'S OFFICIAL DUTIES BEGIN-- A NIGHT DEDICATION OF A NEW STATUE. BUT SUDDENLY...
JUST AS I FEARED-- THE BAT-SIGNAL.' I CAN'T VERY WELL STOP IN THE MIDDLE OF MY SPEECH.' A MILLION PEOPLE ARE WATCHING ME ON TELEVISION.'
AND AT CITY HALL, AT THE CONCLUSION OF BRUCE'S SPEECH...
NO CHANCE TO DUCK UNTIL NOW! I'LL HAVE TO THINK UP SOME EXCUSE TO GIVE GORDON...
A FINE SPEECH, SIR! AND HAVE YOU SEEN THIS EXTRA, JUST OFF THE PRESS? YOUR LAW-ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ARE ON THE BALL.'
MAYOR
WHAT'S THIS?!! BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! IT JUST CAN'T BE.!!
EXTRA! Gotham News
BATMAN NABS JEWEL THIEF !!
AT 10 O'CLOCK THIS EVENING, WHILE MOST GOTHAM CITYITES WERE LISTENING TO THE FIRST ADDRESS OF TEMPORARY MAYOR BRUCE WAYNE, A THIEF ATTEMPTED TO ROB THE CUTLER JEWELRY COMPANY'S DOWNTOWN SHOP. QUICK ACTION ON THE PART OF BATMAN RESULTED IN THE APPREHENSION OF THE
LOOT


THEN, NEXT DAY, AS MAYOR BRUCE WAYNE OFFICIALLY OPENS THE NEW MUNICIPAL ART MUSEUM...
HOLD IT, MR. MAYOR! JUST ONE MORE, PLEASE.'
AGAIN.' JUST WHEN I'M IN THE CENTER OF ATTRACTION, THE BAT-SIGNAL FLASHES ON! I CAN'T LEAVE HERE NOW.'


AND WHEN BRUCE RETURNS TO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE...
WELL, BRUCE--THE POLICE ARE ACTING HANDSOMELY DURING YOUR TENURE OF OFFICE.' BATMAN JUST NABBED ANOTHER BURGLAR.!'
GOOD WORK, COMMISSIONER!
WHAT CAN ALL THIS MEAN? WHO'S PLAYING BATMAN-- AND WHY??


MEANWHILE, AT DEUCE CHALMERS' HIDEOUT...
I'VE PROVED IT.' BRUCE WAYNE IS BATMAN.' WHY DIDN'T THE REAL BATMAN ANSWER THE BAT-SIGNAL? BECAUSE HE WAS TOO BUSY IN HIS ROLE AS MAYOR.'
IT WAS SMART OF YOU TO HAVE THOSE PHONEY CRIMES STAGED AT THE EXACT MOMENT THE MAYOR WOULD BE BUSY.' BUT WHAT ABOUT OUR BOYS? YOU HADDA PUT 'EM IN JAIL.'


DON'T WORRY-- I'LL GET 'EM OUT OF JAIL JUST AS EASY AS I GOT 'EM IN.' MEANWHILE, WE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO THINK OF.' LOOK AT THIS NEWSPAPER.'
☆☆☆ - Gotham Gazette
BIG SIX CLUB ARRIVES IN GOTHAM CITY! TO FETE BATMAN IN GALA CEREMONIES.
THE FABULOUS "BIG SIX" CLUB, COMPRISED OF THE SIX WEALTHIEST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL MEN IN AMERICA, ARRIVES TOMORROW TO PAY HONOR TO BATMAN. ON A SPECIAL TRAIN TEEMING WITH BODYGUARDS AND SECRET SERVICE AGENTS, THE SIX GIANTS OF INDUSTRY WERE BUSY DRAWING UP PLANS....


MY TIP WAS RIGHT! I KNEW IN ADVANCE BATMAN WAS TO BE HONORED BY THE "BIG SIX".' AND THAT'S HOW THIS WHOLE SCHEME WAS BORN.' BECAUSE I WANT TO DEAL WITH THOSE SIX MILLIONAIRES.'
Gotham Gazette
BIG SIX CLUB ARRIVES IN

WE'VE TIME ENOUGH TO REVEAL BATMAN'S IDENTITY! FIRST, I MUST CONTINUE TO PLAY MY ROLE--HAVE MY FUN--AND MAKE SIX MILLION DOLLARS.'

THAT EVENING, AS BRUCE ACCEPTS A DINNER INVITATION FROM COMMISSIONER GORDON...
AHHH--OUR MAYOR! BRUCE--YOU KNOW BATMAN, OF COURSE. I HAD INVITED HIM TO DINNER EARLIER TODAY.
HELLO, BRUCE. HOW'VE YOU BEEN?
THE INFERNAL CRUST OF THIS IMPOSTOR! I MUST BE CAREFUL.
LATER...
YOU KNOW SOMETHING? IF ONLY THE PEOPLE COULD SEE US NOW, IT WOULD PUT TO AN END THE OFTEN-QUOTED THEORY THAT BRUCE WAYNE AND BATMAN ARE ONE PERSON.
WILL HE BE SURPRISED.
WHAT A SITUATION.
AND, AFTER DINNER...
HOW WAYNE MUST BE SQUIRMING! I CAN'T RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO RUB IT IN. NOW FOR SOME FUN.
IF YOU'VE NOTHING BETTER PLANNED, HOW'D YOU LIKE TO VISIT THE BAT-CAVE? I'VE GOT SOME INTERESTING NEW GADGETS...
A CAPITAL IDEA! BRUCE, YOU'RE IN FOR A TREAT.
HE CAN SAY THAT AGAIN. THE BAT-CAVE! HOW FAR I CAN HE GO?
SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, OUTSIDE GORDON'S HOME...
THE BATMOBILE, GENTLEMEN. EVEN WITH THIS HEAVY FOG, I MUST BLINDFOLD YOU. I'LL REMOVE THE BLINDS ONCE WE'VE REACHED THE BAT-CAVE.
THIS JOB'S AN AUTHENTIC SHELL OF THE BATMOBILE BODY--BUT THAT'S ALL! AND YET--HOW CAN I EXPOSE THIS FRAUD WITHOUT EXPOSING MYSELF?

NOW TO TRY TO TRIP HIM!
AREN'T WE GOING RATHER SLOW? I KNOW IT'S FOGGY OUT, BUT I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THE BATMOBILE HAD SECRET INSTRUMENTS TO DEAL WITH FOG!
SO IT HAS! (COUGH) ER--BUT AN AUXILLIARY GENERATOR BROKE DOWN EARLIER -- I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO REPAIR IT YET...
HE THOUGHT QUICKLY! HE'S SHARP, ALL RIGHT! HMMM--WHAT'S THAT NOISE? SOUNDS LIKE A LOW-FLYING PLANE COMING IN FOR A LANDING...
AND AS THE LONG DRIVE CONTINUES, THROUGH DESOLATE COUNTRY...
BRUCE! WELL--IF THAT ISN'T TYPICAL! ON AN EXCITING ADVENTURE LIKE THIS, HE'S FALLEN ASLEEP!
LATER, WHEN THE DESTINATION HAS BEEN REACHED AND THE BLINDS REMOVED...
SO THIS IS THE FABULOUS BAT-CAVE! I WOULDN'T HAVE MISSED IT FOR THE WORLD!
HA-HA! WAYNE MUST BE BURNING! HE KNOWS DARN WELL THIS ISN'T THE BAT-CAVE--BUT WHAT CAN HE DO?!
TROPHIES
AND AS THE BRAZEN IMPOSTOR EXHIBITS A CRUDE, MAKESHIFT CRIME LABORATORY...
TRUTHFULLY, I'M A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED, BATMAN. SOMEHOW, I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE BAT-CAVE WAS MORE ELABORATE IN LAYOUT...
WELL, YOU KNOW HOW IT IS--THE NEWSPAPERS GO TO TOWN ON A THING LIKE THIS--THEY IMAGINE ALL SORTS OF THINGS. ACTUALLY, THIS IS ALL I NEED...
LATER...
WELL, BRUCE--I HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR VISIT. I'LL BET YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, EH?
IT'S BEEN VERY INTERESTING ...VERY INTERESTING!
THIS IS AS BAD A FIX AS I'VE EVER BEEN IN!

LATE THAT EVENING, WHEN BRUCE IS WELCOMED HOME BY ALFRED, THE BUTLER...
HE'S CLEVER, ALFRED.' HE'S TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MY TEMPORARY JOB AS MAYOR--EVERY MOVE IS PERFECTLY TIMED SO I CAN'T EXPOSE HIM.' IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING SOON, HE'LL HAVE ME LICKED.'
CAN'T I HELP OUT, SIR? I'VE DONE SO IN THE PAST WHEN YOUR SECRET WAS THREATENED--BY PLAYING THE BATMAN ROLE...
NO--HE'S TOO SMART FOR THAT. I'VE GOT TO THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE.' MEANWHILE, WE MUST BE ALERT. IF HE WAS JUST AFTER MY IDENTITY, HE WOULD HAVE REVEALED EVERYTHING BY NOW.' HE'S GOT SOMETHING ELSE UP HIS SLEEVE.'
NEXT DAY, AS MAYOR BRUCE WAYNE WELCOMES THE "BIG SIX" CLUB AT CITY HALL...
GREETINGS, GENTLEMEN.' BATMAN SHOULD BE HERE AT ANY MOMENT.'
IF THE IMPOSTOR FAILS TO APPEAR, I MUST BE READY TO CREATE A DIVERSION NEEDED TO ALLOW ME TO CHANGE TO BATMAN.'
BUT, MOMENTS LATER...
HMMM--THE MASQUERADE CONTINUES, AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD.'
SORRY TO BE LATE, GENTLEMEN--A FEW ODDS AND ENDS TO BE CLEARED UP.'
AND WHEN CEREMONIES HAVE ENDED...
THANK YOU, GENTLEMEN.' AND NOW I'D LIKE TO REPAY YOU--BY TAKING YOU ON A PRIVATE TOUR OF MY BAT-CAVE.'
WONDERFUL! WONDERFUL!
WAIT.' THAT MUST BE HIS PLAN.'... TO GET THESE MILLIONAIRES ALONE.' HOW CAN I PREVENT IT?!!
I'LL BET YOUR BODYGUARDS WOULD GET A KICK OUT OF THE BAT-CAVE.' YOU'LL TAKE THEM ALONG, OF COURSE.'
PREPOSTEROUS.' ARE YOU SUGGESTING, MR. MAYOR, THAT WE NEED PROTECTION WHEN WE'RE IN THE HANDS OF BATMAN HIMSELF? HMMPH.' IT'LL BE A PLEASURE TO BE RID OF THESE WATCHDOGS FOR A TIME.'

SHORTLY AFTERWARDS...
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE'LL DO WITH THE "BIG SIX" IN HIS POWER.' I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER--I'VE GOT TO MAKE MY MOVE NOW.'
MAYOR'S OFFICE →
MEANWHILE...
THESE FOOLS -- WAIT TILL THEY LEARN THEY'VE BEEN DUPED.' HOW ELSE COULD ANYONE EVER GET THEM AWAY FROM THEIR BODYGUARDS.' HA-HA--THEY'RE MINE NOW-- AND I'LL HOLD THEM EACH FOR A MILLION DOLLARS.'
AND, AT THE MOMENT IN CITY HALL...
FIELDING, GET ME THE COMMISSIONER OF MARINE AND AVIATION.' AND THEN I WANT THE MAP SECTION OF THE CITY PLANNING OFFICE.'
YES, MR. MAYOR.'
WAIT A MINUTE.' FIELDING -- OF COURSE.' NO MIND OF HIS OWN, HE ONCE SAID.' WELL -- WE'LL GIVE HIM A MIND.'
AND AFTER BRUCE HAS COMPLETED HIS INQUIRIES, A STRANGE DRAMA UNFOLDS BEHIND THE LOCKED DOORS OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.'
JUST AS I THOUGHT--AN APT SUBJECT-- HE'S HYPNOTIZED ALREADY! NOW FOR HIS DISGUISE-- WITH HIS GLASSES OFF, THE RESEMBLANCE IS THERE.' IT NEEDS ONLY A FEW TOUCHES.'
SWIFTLY, BRUCE DONS HIS BATMAN COSTUME. THEN...
LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY, FIELDING.' YOU WANTED TO BE MAYOR OF GOTHAM CITY-- NOW YOU ARE.' YOU ARE MAYOR BRUCE WAYNE OF GOTHAM CITY.' YOU WILL DO WHAT I TELL YOU--AND WHEN I WAKE YOU, YOU WILL REMEMBER NOTHING OF WHAT WENT ON-- YOU WILL REMEMBER NOTHING.'

MEANWHILE, IN CHALMERS' MAKESHIFT "BAT-CAVE"...
INCREDIBLE! INCREDIBLE! THIS IS INDEED A RARE TREAT!
HERE'S SOMETHING I THINK WILL INTEREST YOU--STEP INSIDE IT, GENTLEMEN--AND I'LL SHOW YOU!
THE GRISS CASE CAGE USED BY TWO-GUN GRISSOM TO HOLD BATMAN AND ROB CAPTIVE. RE. I TO OCCU
AND WHEN THE UNSUSPECTING "BIG SIX" CLUB HAS FOLLOWED INSTRUCTIONS...
BATMAN --WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?? IS THIS SOME SORT OF JOKE ??
YES, CHUMPS-- THE JOKE'S ON YOU! I'M NOT BATMAN-- I'M JUST A CLEVER FELLOW WHO'S GOING TO HOLD EACH OF YOU FOR A MILLION DOLLARS' RANSOM!
PERFECT, EH?! WITH ALL YOUR BODYGUARDS AND PROTECTION, I FOUND A WAY OF KIDNAPING YOU!
DON'T LAUGH TOO SOON, YOUNG MAN! THE REAL BATMAN MUST KNOW OF YOUR MASQUERADE! HE'LL PUT AN END TO YOU!
YOU'RE WRONG! I'VE PUT AN END TO BATMAN! I FOUND OUT HIS TRUE IDENTITY-- BRUCE WAYNE! YES-- MAYOR BRUCE WAYNE IS REALLY BATMAN! HA-HA!
ALL AT ONCE...
WAS SOMEONE PAGING THE BOTH OF US ??
BATMAN-- AND BRUCE WAYNE!! IT MUST BE A TRICK-- IT CAN'T BE TRUE! HE'S NOT BRUCE WAYNE!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! ANYONE WHO KNOWS ME WILL RECOGNIZE THIS SCAR! I'M BRUCE WAYNE, ALL RIGHT! MAYOR BRUCE WAYNE!
OF COURSE IT'S BRUCE! I REMEMBER WHEN HE GOT THAT SCAR-- AT THE NEWVILLE YACHT RACES!

AND AS THE TENSION MOUNTS WITHIN THE FALSE BAT-CAVE...
YOUR DREAM IS OVER, CHALMERS! WAKE UP, MAN-- YOU'RE THROUGH!
WHAT--WHAT'S HAPPENED...?
WHAT A FOOL I WAS-- SHOUTING "WAKE UP" LIKE THAT! FIELDING HAS COME OUT OF HIS TRANCE-- HE'LL GIVE EVERYTHING AWAY IF I DON'T MOVE FAST! AND I MUSTN'T DO ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS!
WITH LIGHTNING SPEED, BATMAN WHIPS OUT A FOLDING BATARANG FROM HIS UTILITY BELT. IN THE SAME MOTION, HE HURLS IT AT CHALMERS!
HA-HA! YOU MISSED ME, BATMAN!
I'M NOT TRYING TO HIT YOU, MY FRIEND!
ABRUPTLY, THE BATARANG SPINS AROUND, COMES SAILING BACK UNERRINGLY TOWARD THE STILL-DAZED FIELDING!
LOOK-- IT HIT BRUCE! HE'S KNOCKED OUT!
NOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE DIVERSION!
I'VE GOT TO CLEAN UP THIS FAST-- BEFORE FIELDING COMES TO!
WITH URGENCY DRIVING HIM, BATMAN TEARS INTO HIS FOES! IN A MATTER OF MOMENTS, THE BATTLE IS FINISHED! BUT THEN...
ALL RIGHT--YOU'VE GOT ME! BUT IF YOU AREN'T BRUCE WAYNE-- HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN YOUR ABSENCE FROM THE SCENE, WHILE I WAS PLAYING BATMAN?

YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK ROBIN ABOUT THAT.'

ROBIN? WHY--I HAPPEN TO KNOW APPROXIMATELY WHERE ROBIN IS--MY COMPANY IS INVOLVED IN THE ATOMIC TESTS.' THAT'S IT-- OF COURSE.' BATMAN MUST HAVE BEEN WITH ROBIN --AND SECURITY PREVENTS HIM FROM EXPLAINING.'

WHY--JUST LOOK AT BATMAN'S FACE.' ALL FRESHLY SUN-BURNED.' HE GOT THAT BURN IN THE PACIFIC--OR MY NAME ISN'T JOE P. ABERNATHY.'

A LONG SHOT--BUT IT WORKED.' I KNEW ABERNATHY KNEW OF ROBIN'S ASSIGNMENT--I COULD ONLY HOPE THIS MAKE-UP "SUNBURN" WOULD LEAD HIM TO A LOGICAL CONCLUSION...

MOMENTS LATER...

GUARD THE PRISONERS, GENTLEMEN--I'LL HAVE THE POLICE HERE SHORTLY.' I'VE GOT TO HURRY AND TAKE CARE OF THE MAYOR.'

AND JUST IN TIME.' HE'S BEGINNING TO STIR.'

SWIFTLY, BATMAN REMOVES FIELDING'S DISGUISE, RESTORES HIS OWN CLOTHING.' THEN...

BATMAN.' WHY--WHAT AM I DOING HERE WITH YOU?

BRUCE WAYNE THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE A LITTLE RIDE.'

THE HYPNOSIS WORKED.' HE DOESN'T REMEMBER.'

THAT NIGHT, IN THE BAT-CAVE, AS BATMAN EXPLAINS THE CASE TO ALFRED...

AND SO YOU SEE, UNDER THESE CONDITIONS I WAS EASY FOR ME TO DETERMINE THE ROAD ON WHICH CHALMERS WAS DRIVING THE NIGHT HE TOOK GORDON AND MYSELF TO HIS "BAT-CAVE" ON AN ABANDONED FARM.'

DEDUCTIONS:
1. ON FOGGY NIGHTS UNUSUAL OR PLANES TO BE IN AIR
2. IN HEAVY FOG CHALMERS COULDN'T HAVE BEEN DRIVING MORE THAN 30 MPH
3. WRECK WITH AUTHORITIES REVEALED ONLY ONE PLANE LANDED IN GOTHAM CITY AT TIME I HEARD PLANE MOTOR
AIRPORT
FLIGHT OF PLANE
HIGHWAY
EAST
PATH OF CAR

YES--AND BY COUNTING YOUR PULSE YOU WERE ABLE TO ESTABLISH HOW MANY MINUTES ELAPSED BETWEEN THE AIRFIELD AND THE HIDEOUT. KNOWING THE CAR'S SPEED, IT WAS SIMPLE TO ESTABLISH THE MILEAGE BETWEEN THE TWO POINTS.'

AND NEXT DAY, IN CITY HALL...

BRUCE, I UNDERSTAND YOU DID A BANG UP JOB WHILE I WAS AWAY.' HOW ABOUT STAYING ON AN EXTRA WEEK?

NO, THANKS, MAYOR STOKES! IT'S TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT.'

BROTHER--AND HOW.'

THE END

SPEEDIER THAN THE GOLD RUSH!

GUSHIER THAN STRIKING OIL!

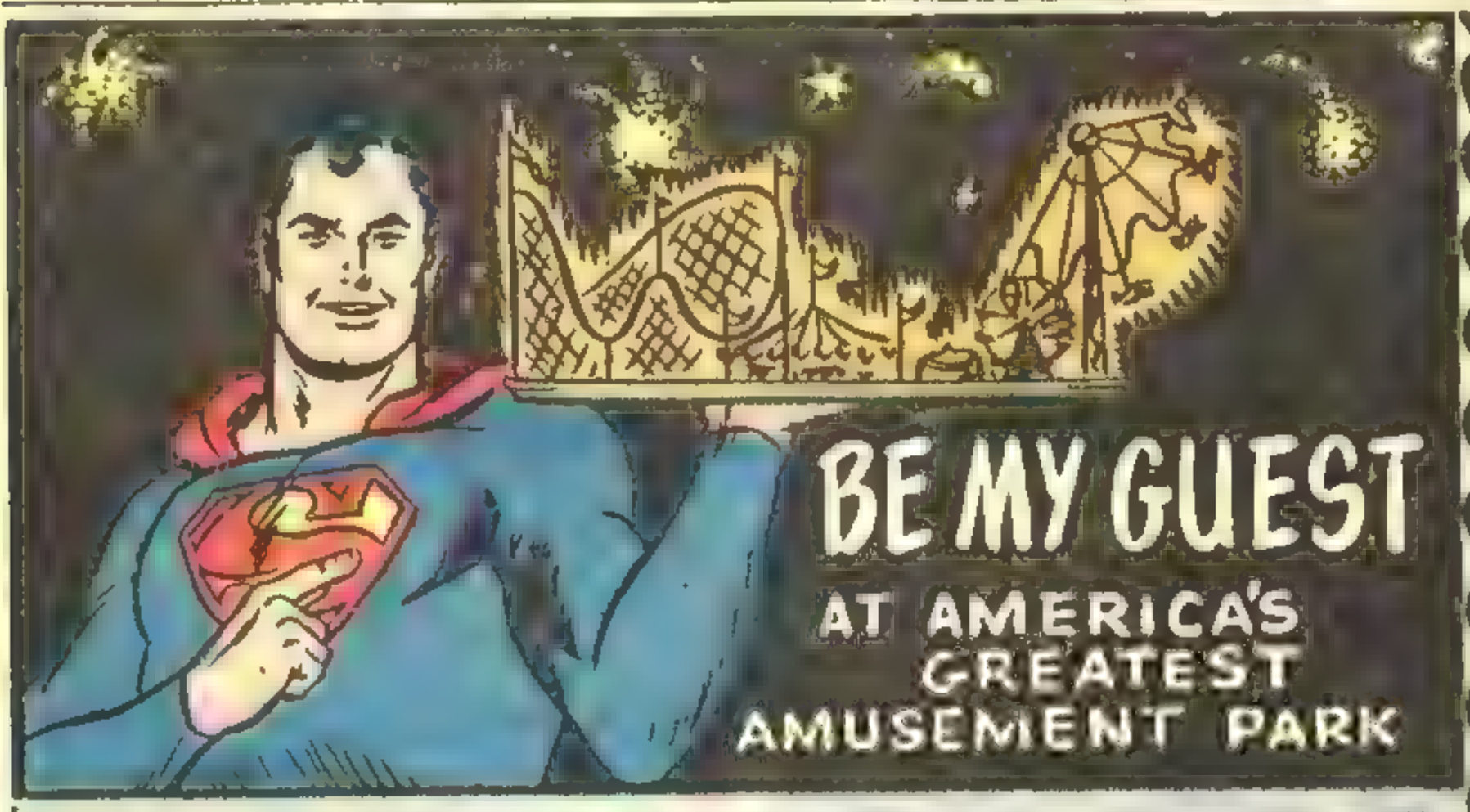
MORE DESPERATE THAN THE HOPE DIAMOND!

IS THERE ANY OTHER WAY OF MAKING A QUICK BUCK? YOU BET YOUR BOOTIES-- MARRY IT!

THAT'S WHAT SILVER SHANNON DECIDES WHEN SHE HOOKS RICHARD PIPDYKE XIV, SON OF THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD!

DON'T MISS THE AUGUST SHOWCASE. THE MANIAKS

SHOWCASE presents..
THEY'RE KOOKY! THEY'RE KICKY!
THEY'RE... KRAZY!
MANIAKS
AUG.
WE GOT NOTHING AGAINST THAT BILLIONAIRE YOU'RE MARRYIN', CHICK...
...AND IT'S NOT THAT WE DON'T WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY, SILVER LUV..
BUT DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE SETTLED FOR A SMALLER ENGAGEMENT RING?
THE MANIAKS
IT'S RAM LOVE WHEN SILVER (THE GO-GO GIRL WITH THE GO-GOLD MIND) GETS ENGAGED TO A RICH PLAYBOY AND THE ACTION HITS THE TOP OF THE POP CHARTS!
ON SALE MAY 23RD



ADMIT ONE (1) to
PALISADES
AMUSEMENT PARK, N.J.

GOOD MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAYS (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS) Until 7 P.M.

FREE
ADMISSION
CIRCUS ACTS
PARKING
WORTH 85¢

FREE RIDE
BATMAN SLIDE

FREE RIDE
CRAZY CRYSTALS

PALISADES AMUSEMENT PARK N.J.

½ MILE SOUTH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE

LOOK FOR THIS COUPON IN ALL JUNE THROUGH OCTOBER ISSUES

BATMAN AND ROBIN

GIANT WINGS FLAP IN THE AIR! AN ENORMOUS BAT SLIDES THROUGH THE SKIES! BUT IS IT A BAT? NO! WONDER OF WONDERS, IT'S BATMAN-- SUDDENLY GIFTED WITH REAL WINGS, AND EMBARKED ON THE MOST INCREDIBLE ADVENTURE OF HIS CAREER! IMPOSSIBLE-- UNBELIEVABLE, YOU SAY? WELL-- THIS IS THE WAY IT HAPPENED-- WHEN BATMAN DARED THE MYSTERIES OF THE LOST VALLEY OF THE BIRD MEN AND BECAME-- "THE FLYING BATMAN"

LOOK! IT'S BATMAN! HE'S GOT REAL WINGS! HE'S FLYING!

GOSH! BATMAN HAS TURNED INTO A BAT!

BOB LANE

ONE AFTERNOON, AS YOUNG DICK GRAYSON RETURNS FROM SCHOOL, TO THE HOME OF HIS GUARDIAN, MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE...

AND HOW DID SCHOOL GO TODAY, DICK?

OKAY. BUT PRETTY QUIET. I'D MUCH RATHER WE HAD SOME ACTION AS *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN!*

MOMENTS LATER, A STARTLING TRANSFORMATION TAKES PLACE, AS THE TWO DESCEND A SECRET STAIRCASE AND ENTER THE FAMED **BAT-CAVE** AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER!**

THE *BAT-SIGNAL* HASN'T FLASHED-- AND THE POLICE RADIO IS QUIET...

THAT MEANS WE'LL MAKE OUR USUAL PATROL OF THE CITY--JUST IN CASE SOME CRIME IS STIRRING...

ELECTRIC EYE MONITOR FOR BAT-SIGNAL

AND, A FEW HOURS LATER...

BATMAN! THAT BIG MAN! HE WAS ACTING SUSPICIOUSLY AND WHEN HE SPOTTED US, HE STARTED TO RUN!

HE'S UP TO SOMETHING! LET'S CLOSE IN!

(COUGH!) GAS! HE'S DROPPED A BOMB, TO DIVERT US!

AN OLD DODGE! QUICKLY--GET THE NOSE FILTERS OUT OF YOUR UTILITY BELT! GAS WON'T STOP *US!*

AND THEN, JUST WHEN THE LAWMEN ARE ABOUT TO DIVE AT THEIR FOE, **THEY RECEIVE THE SHOCK OF THEIR LIVES!**

ARE WE SEEING THINGS? ARE WE GROGGY FROM THAT GAS?

IT CAN'T BE, BUT IT IS! HE'S DISCARDED HIS CAPE AND HAS *WINGS!* HE'S *FLYING*-- *LIKE A BIRD!*

INCREDIBLE! (GASP) HOW CAN WE EVER CATCH *THIS* KIND OF CRIMINAL?

IT MAY BE JUST THE REVERSE! HE MAY CATCH *US!* LOOK OUT, *ROBIN*-- HE'S GOING INTO A *DIVE!*

BUT THE FANTASTIC BIRD-MAN'S RUSHING DIVE IS TOO SWIFT FOR THE STUNNED LAWMEN!

BATMAN! I FELT A STING! HE'S INJECTED US WITH SOME-THING! I--I FEEL-- DIZZY!

HANG ON, *ROBIN!* WE'VE GOT TO FIGHT BACK!

BUT EVEN THE GREAT BATMAN CANNOT SHAKE OFF THE POWERFUL DRUG COURSING THROUGH HIS VEINS. AND SOON AFTER...

THE LAWMEN SLEEP-- A DEEP, LONG SLEEP-- AS TIME AND SPACE RUSH BY THEM. AND WHEN THEY FINALLY AWAKEN...

BE NOT ALARMED, *BATMAN*. NO HARM WILL BEFALL YOU HERE!

WHERE ARE WE? WHO ARE YOU? WHAT-- WHAT *IS* THIS?

WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TELL YOU EXACTLY WHERE YOU ARE, *BATMAN*. SUFFICE IT TO SAY YOU ARE ON ANOTHER CONTINENT-- A LONG WAY FROM HOME...

MORE PRECISELY, *BATMAN*, YOU ARE IN A VALLEY *LOST FOR AGES* FROM CIVILIZATION. THERE IT IS-- THE *LOST VALLEY OF THE BIRD-MEN!*

AS TO WHY YOU WERE BROUGHT HERE, PERHAPS I SHOULD START AT THE BEGINNING AND EXPLAIN THE HISTORY OF OUR STRANGE VALLEY...

YES, SANDAGO! TELL THEM THE WHOLE STORY! QUICKLY!

(SANDAGO'S STORY): "LONG AGO, OUR FOREFATHERS DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF GRAFTING WINGS ON MAN WHICH ENABLED HIM TO FLY LIKE A BIRD..."

YOUR OPERATIONS WERE SUCCESSFUL, DOCTOR! SEE HOW GRACEFULLY THEY FLY!

YES. BUT THE OPERATION REQUIRES VAST QUANTITIES OF **SERUM ALPHA**. WE MUST TAKE STEPS TO BUILD UP OUR SUPPLY OF THE SERUM...

"FOR YEARS WE KNEW PEACE. ALTHOUGH LOST FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD, WE PROSPERED. AND THEN CAME BARON GRAVIO..."

NOW THEY FLY, YES. BUT ONE DAY **ONLY** THE GRAVIO FAMILY WILL FLY! HA-HA! AND WHEN THAT DAY COMES, MY DESCENDANTS WILL **RULE** THIS VALLEY!

"RUTHLESSLY, BARON GRAVIO SET OUT TO CORNER THE SUPPLY OF SERUM ALPHA--AND TO CONTROL ITS MANUFACTURE. THREE GENERATIONS LATER, HIS DESCENDANTS HAD SUCCEEDED..."

BUT MY DEAR BARON GRAVIO--YOU MUST RELEASE THE SERUM TO OUR PEOPLE! I AM THE LAST OF THE BIRD-MEN--EXCEPT FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE GRAVIO CLAN! WE HAVE BECOME EXTINCT!

WHICH IS AS IT SHOULD BE, YOU OLD FOOL! NOW GET OUT!

"THEN BEGAN A REIGN OF TERROR UNEQUALLED IN OUR HISTORY. WE WERE POWERLESS TO COPE WITH THE SLASHING ATTACKS OF THE WINGED GRAVIOS..."

OUR COFFERS ARE NEARLY EMPTY! WE NEED MORE CURRENCY AND GOLD! HA-HA!

THAT BRINGS US TO THE PRESENT, **BATMAN**. WE DESPERATELY NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN BRING THE GRAVIOS TO JUSTICE.

EVEN IN THIS REMOTE PART OF THE WORLD, WE HEARD OF YOU. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE!

BUT--WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO?

I AM A GRAVIO, **BATMAN**--THE ONE MEMBER OF THE CLAN TO DESERT IN HORROR OF THEIR CRIMINAL WAYS! I SMUGGLED OUT **SERUM ALPHA**--ENOUGH FOR ONE OPERATION! WE PROPOSE TO GIVE **YOU** WINGS, **BATMAN**--SO THAT YOU MAY FLY AGAINST THE GRAVIOS!

!!!

!!!

SOON AFTER...

THE OPERATION, WHILE DELICATE, IS NOT SERIOUS, BATMAN. AND LATER, THE WINGS CAN BE REMOVED WITHOUT LEAVING A SINGLE TELL-TALE SCAR!

HMM. I CAN SEE BY YOUR GRAVE FACES THAT EVEN IF I REFUSED, YOU'D FORCE ME INTO THE OPERATION. ALL RIGHT-- LET'S GET ON WITH IT!

THAT NIGHT, BEHIND A HEAVY VEIL OF SECRECY, TWO SKILLED SURGEONS BEND TO THEIR TASK. FINALLY...

HAVE NO FEARS, SANDAGO! ALL WENT WELL. IN A FEW HOURS, THIS BATMAN WILL BE ABLE TO FLY LIKE A BAT!

YES! WE WERE CAREFUL TO GIVE HIM THE WINGS OF HIS NAMESAKE!

MOMENTS LATER...

AND AS DAWN COMES UP OVER THE LOST VALLEY...

THERE HE IS-- BATMAN, WITH REAL WINGS! HE'S GOING TO TAKE OFF!

YES! HE MUST PRACTICE A LITTLE, TO BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO HIS WINGS! BUT I DARESAY BATMAN WILL LEARN VERY QUICKLY!

HE FLIES! SEE HOW EASILY HE FLIES!

BRAVO! THERE'S A SIGHT TO STRIKE TERROR INTO THE HEARTS OF THE GRAVIOS!

AND WHEN BATMAN HAS FINISHED HIS TEST-FLIGHT...

GOSH, BATMAN-- THAT WAS TERRIFIC! BUT IT SURE MAKES ME FEEL HELPLESS! I WISH I HAD WINGS!

NONSENSE! ON THIS ASSIGNMENT I'M GOING TO NEED CLOSE GROUND SUPPORT! NOW LISTEN-- WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME...

LATE THAT AFTERNOON, AS BATMAN PATROLS THE VALLEY...

LOOK! TWO OF THE GRAVIOS! THEY'VE SPOTTED BATMAN-- AND THEY'RE READY TO ATTACK!

BATMAN TO ROBIN! BATMAN TO ROBIN! STAND BY!

SAY GOOD-BYE TO THIS WORLD, INTRUDER! WE'LL SOON RID THE SKIES OF YOU!

HMM! THESE BIRDS HAVE THEIR OWN KIND OF CLAWS! TOO RISKY TO ATTEMPT A HAND-TO-HAND STRUGGLE! OTHER STRATEGY IS CALLED FOR!

AND AS THE BIZARRE BATTLERS STREAK ACROSS THE SKY...

SMOKE PELLETS FROM MY UTILITY BELT WILL PROVIDE TEMPORARY COVER...

BATMAN TO ROBIN! PREPARE FOR PLAN B!

NOW, ROBIN!

RIGHT!

GOOD THING I SPOTTED THAT FISHERMEN'S NET ON RECONNAISANCE EARLIER!

PERFECT TIMING! THIS BALLOON BARRAGE BATMAN RIGGED UP THIS MORNING SURE CAME IN HANDY!

WELL, THAT'S TWO GRAVIOS WE'VE CAUGHT, ROBIN! ACCORDING TO SANDAGO, THERE WERE TEN ALL TOLD. WE'VE GOT EIGHT TO GO!

DON'T PUFF UP YOUR FEATHERS, BATMAN! RIGHT NOW MY CLAN IS RIGGING UP A HIDDEN ANTI-CRAFT GUN! YOU'LL BE BLASTED TO ETERNITY!

LATER... THAT GUN WORRIES ME, ROBIN! WE'VE GOT TO LOCATE IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

AND HOW! YOU'D BE A SITTING DUCK UP IN THE SKY AGAINST A HIGH-POWERED GUN LIKE THAT!

NEXT DAY...

AHH! HOW SECURE ONE FEELS WITH THE GREAT **BATMAN** PATROLLING THE SKIES OVERHEAD!

IT WAS A MASTER-STROKE BRINGING HIM HERE, SANDAGO! ELSE WE ALL SHOULD HAVE BECOME SLAVES!

SUDDENLY...

LOOK! THOSE WHITE PUFFS OF SMOKE! THERE'S AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT CANNON TRAINED ON **BATMAN!**

THE SCOUNDRELS! ONLY A GRAVIO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT!

THEY'VE **KILLED** HIM! HE'S PLUMMETING TO EARTH!

POOR **BATMAN!** IT IS WE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE!

MEANWHILE, AT THE SITE OF THE HIDDEN CANNON...

EXCELLENT, RICO! YOU'VE BLANKETED HIM WITH HITS! HE'S A **DEAD** BAT NOW!

THIS SHOULD MAKE COUNT GRAVIO VERY HAPPY! AND US VERY RICH!

ALL AT ONCE...

BUT IT CAN'T BE YOU! WE JUST **SHOT YOU DOWN!**

THANKS FOR SHOOTING! THE GUNFIRE ENABLED ME TO LOCATE THE GUN! AND NOW WE'VE CLIPPED THE WINGS OF TWO MORE GRAVIOS!

MEANWHILE, ACROSS THE VALLEY IN A HIDDEN GLEN...

BATMAN RADIOED THAT HE SILENCED THE GUN! NOW I CAN PULL DOWN THIS KITE MADE TO LOOK LIKE **BATMAN!** THE RUSE WORKED!

THAT EVENING...

TONIGHT IS AN EVIL NIGHT, BATMAN-- THE ANNIVERSARY OF BARON GRAVIO'S DEATH. TONIGHT THE CLAN WILL BE OUT IN FORCE, RAINING TERROR ON US ALL!

IT'S A YEARLY RITUAL. FIRST THEY GATHER IN THE CASTLE FOR A SUMPTUOUS BANQUET -- THEN, NEAR MIDNIGHT, THEY STRIKE!

ROBIN, THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO GET THEM ALL TOGETHER! WE WON'T WAIT FOR THE GRAVIOS -- WE'LL ATTACK FIRST!

GOOD-- LET'S GET GOING!

MINUTES LATER, AS THE SKIES ABOVE THE LOST VALLEY PRESENT A SIGHT NEVER SEEN BEFORE -- A FLYING BATMAN WITH ROBIN AS A PASSENGER!

THERE'S THE GRAVIO CASTLE, ROBIN! NOW LET'S CAPITALIZE ON A SURPRISE ATTACK!

LET'S HOPE THEY'RE FULL OF FOOD AND WINE-- THEN THEY'LL BE EASY TO ROUND UP!

BUT THEN, A MISHAP! AS THE LAWMEN ALIGHT ON THE CASTLE ROOF, AN OVER-EAGER ROBIN SLIPS WITH A CRASH, ALERTING THE CASTLE!

IT'S OKAY, ROBIN-- I'VE GOT YOU!

YEAH! BUT ON ACCOUNT OF ME, THEY'VE GOT US!

AHH-- LOOK WHO'S JOINED OUR PARTY! I'VE JUST THE SPOT FOR BATMAN!

AND SOON AFTER...

NOTHING LIKE A BIRD CAGE TO HOLD A TAME BIRD! HA-HA! YOU'LL KEEP IN THERE, BATMAN! WE'LL HAVE OUR SPORT IN THE VILLAGE, AND THEN RETURN TO TAKE CARE OF YOU!

I'VE TAKEN HIS UTILITY BELT-- AND GIVEN HIM THE DRUG THAT PARALYZES THE WINGS FOR 24 HOURS!

LATER, WHEN THE GRAVIOS LEAVE...

IT'S NO USE! (GRUNT) IT'S MUCH TOO HEAVY -- WE'LL NEVER LIFT IT!

IF WE ONLY COULD GET TO THAT TRAP DOOR IN THE FLOOR...

THEN AN IDEA COMES TO BATMAN! QUICKLY ASCENDING TO THE CAGE SWING, HE ORDERS ROBIN TO FOLLOW...

KICK OUT, ROBIN! WE MUST TRY TO SWING AS HIGH AS WE CAN GO!

I GET IT! IF WE SWING HARD ENOUGH, THE CAGE MAY ROCK OFF THE FLOOR!

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO TIP IT-- BUT EACH ROCK MOVES THE CAGE A FEW FEET!

RIGHT! AND IN THE DIRECTION OF THAT TRAP-DOOR!

SOON AFTER...

THE GRAVIOS SHOULD HAVE REALIZED WE'D GET INTO THE SWING OF THINGS SOONER OR LATER!

WE MADE IT!

INSTANTLY, THE LAWMEN ESCAPE THROUGH THE TRAP DOOR! MOMENTS LATER, ON A RAMPART OF THE CASTLE...

WE'VE RECOVERED OUR UTILITY BELTS--BUT WHAT NOW? IT'LL TAKE HOURS TO WALK TO THE VILLAGE! THEY PARALYZED YOUR WINGS--YOU CAN'T FLY!

HMM--I WONDER! THERE'S A STIFF BREEZE BLOWING--AND WE'RE HIGH ENOUGH! ROBIN-- WE'RE GOING TO FIX THESE LIMP WINGS!

SHORTLY AFTERWARDS...

THAT DOES IT! A RIBBED FRAME-WORK--JUST LIKE AIRPLANE WINGS! AND YOUR BELT IS BACK ON!

GOOD! NOW I'LL DO WHAT ANY TIRED BIRD DOES--I'LL GLIDE, SEEKING OUT THE VALLEY'S THERMALS-- THE UPDRAUGHTS OF AIR!

PERCHING ON THE HIGHEST PART OF THE CASTLE, BATMAN KICKS OFF WITH LEGS OF STEEL. AND AS ROBIN WATCHES...

IT WORKS! HE'S GLIDING BEAUTIFULLY!

GOOD LUCK, BATMAN! I'LL JOIN YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

SOME MINUTES LATER...

THERE THEY ARE--ALL OF THEM--CELEBRATING IN THAT SIDEWALK CAFE! NOW TO TURN MYSELF INTO A DIVE-BOMBER--WITH GAS PELLETS FROM MY UTILITY BELT!

THEN...

HOW CAN IT BE? IT'S BATMAN! (GASP!)

BUT WE DEADENED HIS WINGS--AND HE WAS CAGED! I DON'T UNDERSTAND! (COUGH!)

LET'S JUST SAY I WAS TOO CAGEY!

STUNNED BY BATMAN'S HARMLESS BUT TEMPORARILY-PARALYZING GAS, THE GRAVIOS ARE QUICKLY ROUNDED UP! LATER...

YOU WERE SUPERB, BATMAN! YOU HAVE OUR ETERNAL THANKS! WE LIVE AGAIN AS FREE MEN!

AND NOW WE WILL FULFILL OUR AGREEMENT--TO RETURN YOU SAFELY HOME, YOUR WINGS BUT A MEMORY! COME-- WE HAVE THE ANESTHESIA READY FOR BOTH OF YOU! WHEN YOU WAKE UP, THE ADVENTURE WILL BE OVER!

THE WORLD SPINS CRAZILY FOR THE DYNAMIC DUO! TIME SEEMS ENDLESS--AND AS THEY SUDDENLY DROP OUT OF A BLACK VOID...

WE'RE BACK, BATMAN--OR WERE WE EVER AWAY? THERE'S NO TRACE AT ALL OF WINGS ON YOU--NOT EVEN A THREAD MISSING FROM YOUR UNIFORM! COULD IT ALL HAVE BEEN A DREAM?

I WONDER, ROBIN--I WONDER...?

THE END

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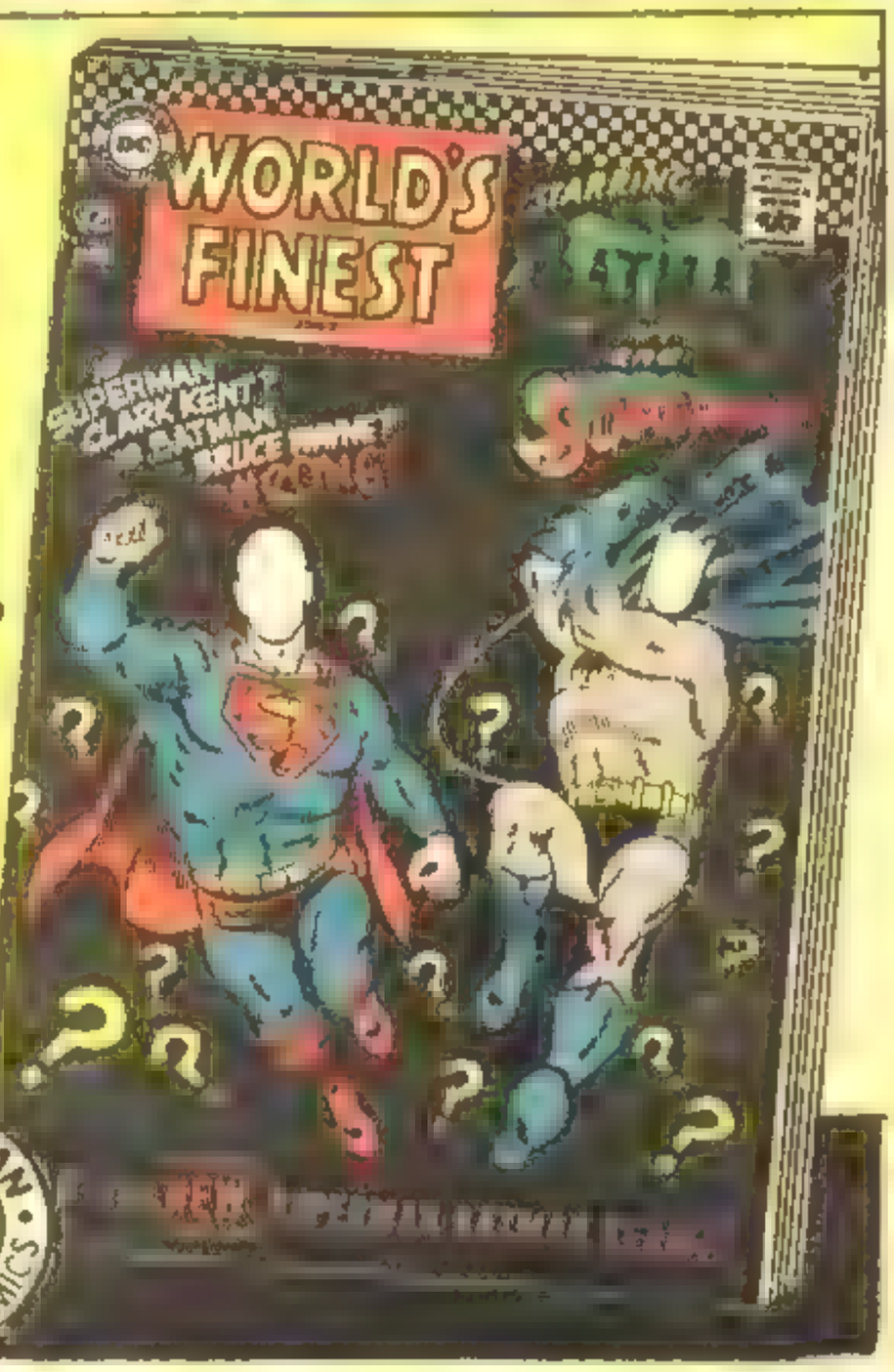

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Can you imagine **LOIS LANE** as the ruthless head of a military dictatorship in a banana republic? And SUPERMAN acting as her right-hand man? It's true . . . as you'll learn when the MAN OF STEEL becomes a one-man FIRING SQUAD to mow down freedom-loving rebels! **July issue, No. 75,** on sale May 11.

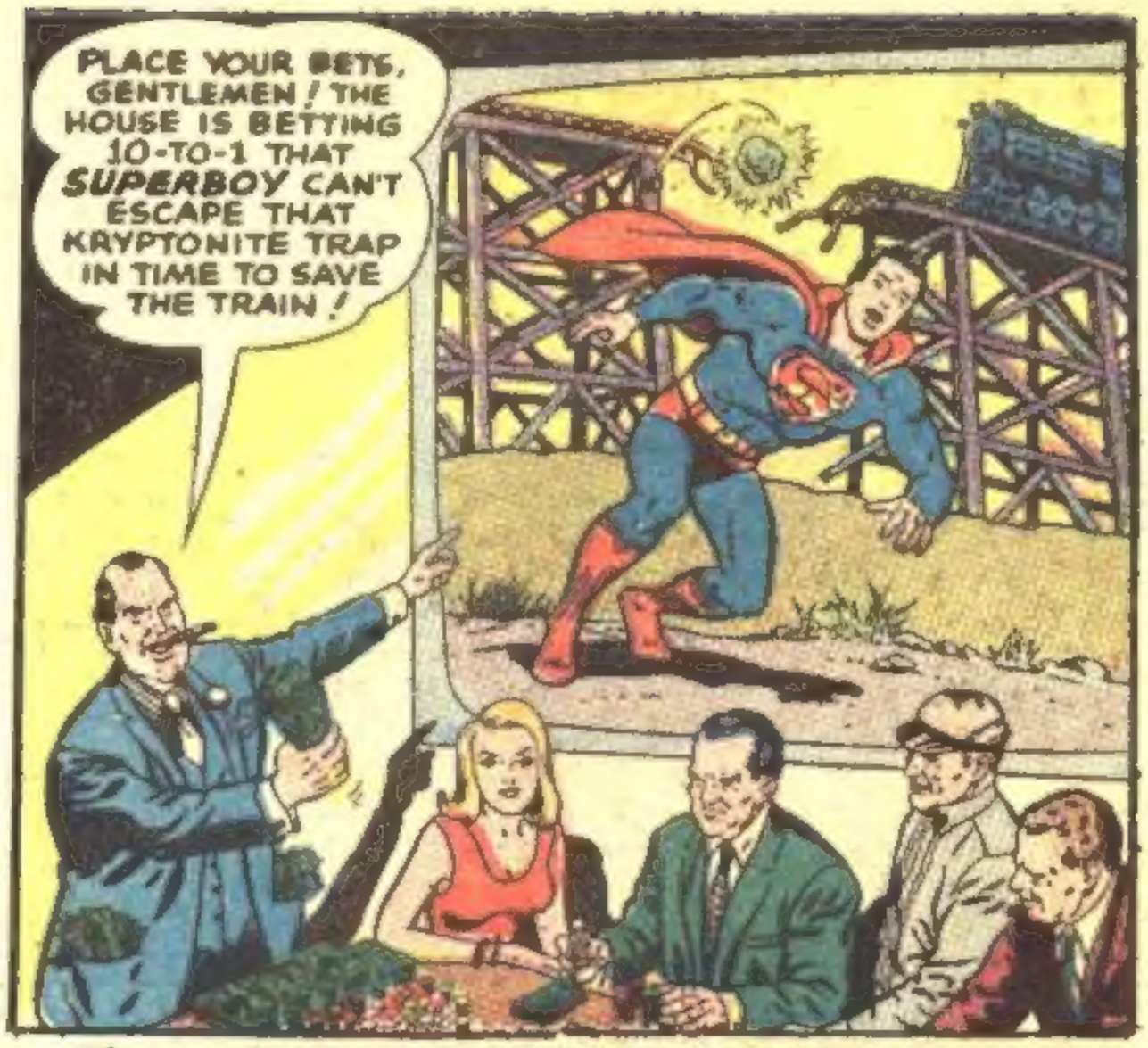
The NEW **BLACKHAWK ERA** wings your way once more, as the MAGNIFICENT 7 match their prowess against "THE TERRIBLE TWINS!" It's a wild adventure of international intrigue, spiced by the BLACKHAWKS' battle with two of the most formidable foes they've ever faced. You'll meet them in the July issue, No. 234, on sale May 11.

The top brass sends LT. HUNTER'S HELLCATS across an ocean on a top-secret suicide mission that only that tough gang can possibly handle—and maybe, just MAYBE, come out alive! Their orders—"KILL THE WOLF PACK!" A gripping wartime action epic in the **August issue of OUR FIGHTING FORCES, No. 108,** on sale May 16.

He's the hottest thing on wheels, **as the TEEN TITANS** quickly learn when they **battle THE** SCORCHER, leader of the BIKE BUZZARDS! Dig the scene? The FAB FOURSOME think they do until, one by one, they're knocked off! It's **ish No. 10 (August),** starring ROBIN, WONDER GIRL, KID FLASH and AQUALAD! On sale May 16.

A blood-curdling cry echoes through the jungle . . . no, not WHITE FEATHER'S scream of terror (that comes later). This is the challenge of **"DARWIN OF THE APES!"** He's teaming up with **THE INFERIOR FIVE** to hunt the missing DR. LIVING-ROOM, whose trail leads to the lost city of OOM-PAH! **August, No. 3,** on sale May 18.

A new super-hero, THE HOOP-MASTER, comes to life in the July **HOUSE OF MYSTERY, No. 168,** as ROBBY REED uses his famous H-DIAL to battle a bizarre villain, **"THE MARAUDING MOON MAN!"** And two OLD heroes, the MOLE and the COMETEER combine to add the finishing touches. Also, THE MARTIAN MANHUNTER! On sale May 18.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Out of his own skull, PLASTIC MAN dreams up a fabulously fiendish character. But then who should show up to embarrass our pliable, pulsating hero? You guessed it! That same imaginary killer-kook—**and he's just one of "THE 1,001 PLAS-ASSINS" who are after PLAS'S scalp in issue No. 5, for August,** on sale May 23.

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She's back! She's alive! She's rarin' to go! Who do we mean? Why, none other than that swingin' chick of a thousand-and-one changes, ELEMENT GIRL! She joins the one and only ELEMENT MAN in a wild epic called "RETURN FROM LIMBO," natch! Together, they make comic history in the August **METAMORPHO, No. 13,** on sale May 25.

JIMMY OLSEN is charged with the MURDER of CLARK KENT . . . **and his accuser is . . . SUPER-MAN! Yet, as we all know, CLARK himself is the MAN OF STEEL! Has JIMMY'S super-pal pulled the frame-up of the century? You can only find out by getting the great July issue, No. 103, when it hits the newsstands on May 25!**

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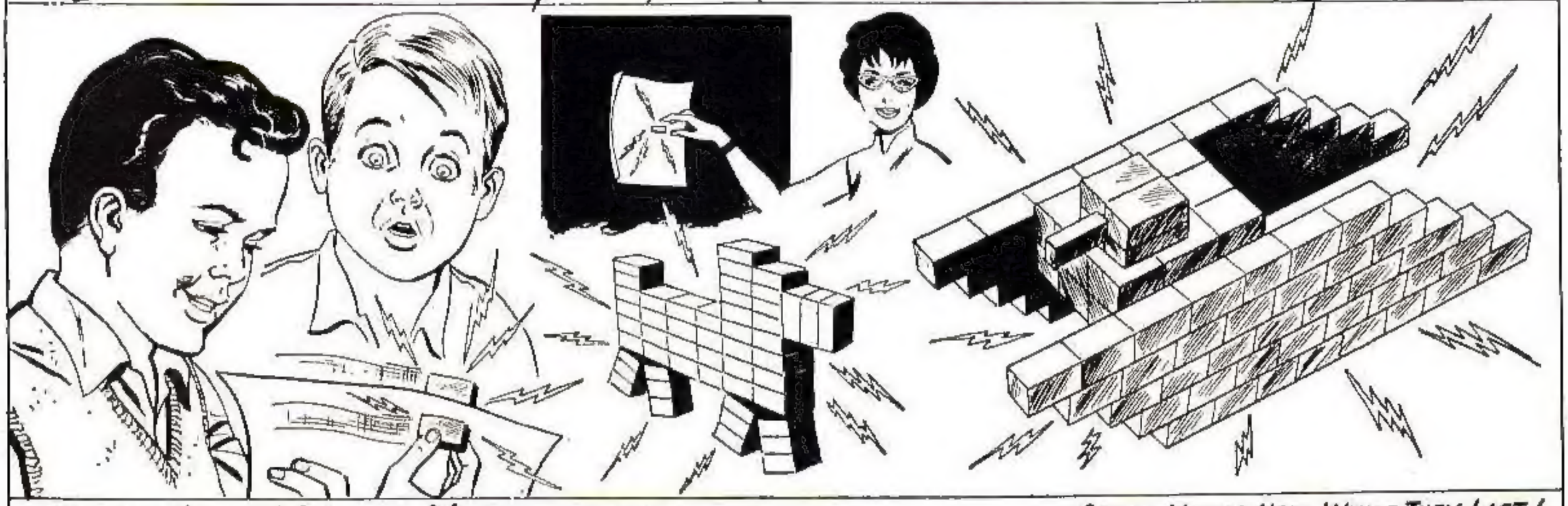

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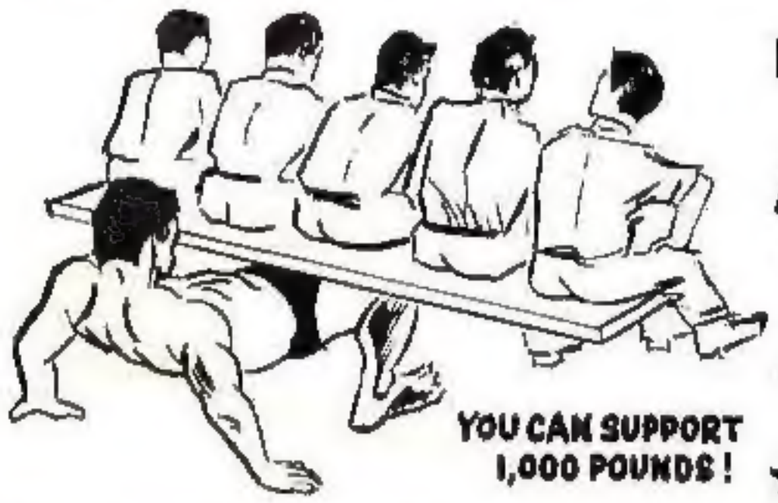

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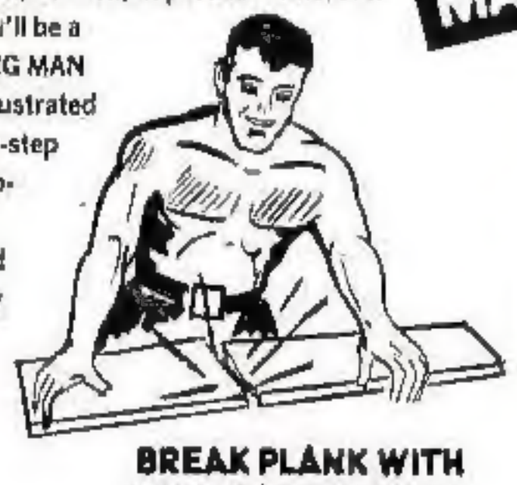

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